

SOUTH - WEST KENT UNITED HEALTH AREA



1938 ORDINARY PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

BY
S. NICOL GALBRAITH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

Public Health Office,
Yardley Ridge,
Tonbridge

12th July, 1939

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The Tonbridge Crest Motto,
“ SALUS POPULI SUPREMA LEX ”

means

THE HEALTH OF THE PEOPLE IS THE SUPREME LAW

MINISTER OF HEALTH'S ADVICE

Dr. Walter Elliot, Minister of Health, presiding at the Annual Education Conference at London University on January 19th, 1939, appealed to the medical profession to set an example in health.

“ If you have medical men strong and healthy like Apollo,” he said, “ the public will listen to them. It is up to all of us to look healthy as well as to preach health.

“ The importance of the simple rules of hygiene is not a modern discovery. We can go a long way in positive health education if we can just get across the simple points of fresh air and sleep.

“ In these days, when almost every new invention gives out noise to a greater or lesser degree, a quiet place of sleep is as important as any other piece of public hygiene one can think of.”

This public health report has cost nearly three shillings each copy to print.

Please do not throw it away, but pass it on to some ratepayer who may be interested in it.

Public Health Office,
Yardley Ridge,
Tonbridge.
July 12th, 1939.

To the South-West Kent Joint Health Committee

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Chairman and Members,

By order of the Ministry of Health I have pleasure in submitting herewith my sixteenth Annual Report upon the public health of the seven constituent Districts of the South-West Kent United Health Area. Every endeavour has been made to keep the report as short and concise as possible without affecting its reference value. Compared with a popular magazine, it seems dear at a cost price of three shillings each copy. It is cheaper, however, to print one volume for the Area population of 80,000 than to print separate reports for each of the seven Districts.

Death of Captain P. Harland Atkin (Holder of the Order of the British Empire)

(1) It is with the deepest regret that I record the death of Captain Atkin, of Hadlow Park, at age 75, which took place suddenly but peacefully on May 17th, 1938. He was one of the best known and most respected men in the public life of West Kent. He was a member of Tonbridge Rural District Council since April, 1928, and Chairman for eight years since May, 1930; Member of the South-West Kent Committee since 1928 and Chairman in succession to Alderman Horace Hills since July, 1931. Captain Atkin has been succeeded by Ernest E. Selmes, Esq., J.P., who was unanimously appointed Chairman of the South-West Kent Health Committee in 1938. He is Chairman of the Tenterden Rural District Council and of the Cranbrook Bench of Magistrates. He is the only member of the Committee who was on it at its inception in 1923 when Dr. Galbraith was appointed M.O.H. Mr. Selmes, when thanking the Committee, remarked that he had been educated in the meeting room, the Council Chamber of the Tonbridge Urban District Council, when Tonbridge Castle was a school.

Vital Statistics

(2) The Registrar-General's mid-year 1938 estimate of the population of South-West Kent United Health Area is 83,314. There were 1,126 live births, 600 male and 526 female, and 44 babies born dead. Births exceeded deaths by

99, a number which is much too low if the reserve of future population is to be maintained. Following the prolonged war scares the Nursing Homes report fewer births. Now, however, that the question of conscription has been settled, patriotic parents should disdain to strike at the roots of their country's defence by refusing to have children. As in the days of the Martello Towers this scare will pass away, but still there are the beautiful stretches of country of the Great British Empire to populate. Those who grumble about paying rates and taxes should remember that the more people there are to pay, the less there is for the grumblers to pay.

The highest birth-rate was 16·6 in Maidstone Rural District. The Infantile Mortality Rate of South-West Kent was 14·0 lower than the countries of England and Wales. This is a valuable indication of the efficiency of the Public Health Services provided by the District Councils in the Area. In the Borough of Tenterden and Tenterden Rural District there were no infant deaths at all, yet, strange to say, in the adjoining district of Cranbrook Rural there were 16 infant deaths giving a rate of 95 deaths to each 1,000 births, 42 higher than the general infantile mortality rate of the country.

The total all-ages death-rate of South-West Kent was only a fraction (0·7) higher than that of the whole country. The commonest cause of death was again heart disease, accounting for 346 out of the 1,027. This number is gradually increasing; in 1937 328 persons, and in 1936 318 persons died of heart disease. It is a warning against the unnecessary rush of work, transport and life in general. The human body is not a machine and can stand a given amount of strain and no more. As a State Registered Physician, I do classify "speed" as a disease and I certainly think the Registrar-General should specify "motor fatalities" in his official list of causes of death and not include them under the general term of "other violence." To lessen deaths and accidents on the roads I am still of the opinion that a 30-mile speed limit should be imposed throughout the whole of the British Isles and a 20-mile limit in towns.

Infectious Disease

(3) Two hundred and seventy-six cases of infectious diseases occurred in 1938, which is about the average. The most remarkable event in the year was that in the largest hop-growing district, not only in Kent, but in Britain, namely, Maidstone Rural District, not a single case of infectious disease was notified. This shows that conditions in the camps are better. During hop-

picking, some contacts to infantile paralysis (acute anterior poliomyelitis) were reported, traced and sent back to London. Subsequently, five actual cases of this serious disease occurred in separate parishes. Prompt antiseptic treatment of the contacts prevented the spread of the infection. Another case of human anthrax occurred ; in recent years we have had cases of this disease occurring in farm workers after using foreign Indian bone manure. As with this man, the germ gets in through a cut in shaving. Consequently I advise farm workers to grow Drake beards and so lessen the risk of infection.

There was an epidemic of measles, 727 cases being notified by the Head Teachers. There were four deaths, one in each of the following districts : Cranbrook Rural, Tenterden Rural, Tonbridge Rural and Tonbridge Urban.

The work of the Health Nurse, Miss Mackley, continues to prove of great value, and her services have now been made available throughout the Area.

Three cases of mild typhoid fever were notified. Many complaints have been received about the chlorination of public water supplies. Most of the eight water undertakings in the Area have, however, continued it in appropriate dosage. It is the one sure safeguard against any risk of typhoid fever infection, provided the water is constantly treated.

British National Emergency

(4) Following the crisis in September the Medical Officer of Health had to vacate his office at the Castle, Tonbridge, as this was required by the Tonbridge Urban District Council for Air Raid Precautions work. We are indebted to Tonbridge Council for allowing the Medical Officer of Health's main office to be located at the Castle for so long as fifteen years. It is to be hoped that the change of address and residence to Yardley Ridge, Tonbridge, will not cause any inconvenience to the ratepayers of the Area. The Air Raid Precautions work and the British Government's Evacuation Scheme have greatly increased the work of the Medical Officer of Health and his Sanitary Inspectors. It is obvious that as this increases, Public Health work has to be left undone. How the Home Office put this work on Health Officers in the beginning I do not know, because it is so obviously associated with Police and Fire Brigade work. The supervision of food and water supplies are essential services which cannot be neglected. Therefore I advise my Local Authorities to relieve their Sanitary Inspectors of Air Raid Precautions work. As an old soldier, I know the danger experienced in the last war of allowing enthusiastic workers to take on the extra jobs of one or two other whole time men.

Staff Changes

(5) Mr. W. L. C. Turner, of Tenterden, retired on superannuation after a long and highly appreciated spell of public work. He has had fifty-four years of Local Government service, forty-five years of which were spent in the service of the Tenterden Rural District Council. For thirty-four years he was also Borough Surveyor, a post which he held jointly with the appointments of Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector to the Rural District Council. He retired from the service of the Tenterden Rural District Council in September, 1938, and has been succeeded by Mr. Horace Parks. Mr. Turner retired from the service of the Borough of Tenterden on December 31st, 1938, and has been succeeded by his son Mr. Gilbert L. Turner. We wish Mr. Turner many years of well-earned retirement and trust both he and Mrs. Turner will celebrate their century together.

Miss E. Burton retired in December, 1938, after twenty years' faithful service as Matron of Cranbrook Isolation Hospital. She started on September 28th, 1918, under the Cranbrook Rural District Council and continued under the Cranbrook and Tenterden Joint Hospital Board from April 1st, 1924, to November 30th, 1938. She was succeeded by Miss Elsie Francis Wright as Matron on December 1st, 1938. We wish Miss Burton many years of happy retirement.

I thank my Inspectors for their willing assistance given during 1938, especially in relation to hop-picking, evacuation and air raid precaution work. In a large area such as this they are of necessity the local representatives of the Medical Officer of Health in their own Districts. The extent of the Area may be gauged from the fact that it is governed by ninety-nine local District Councillors.

My thanks also are due to them—Medical Practitioners, Officers of the County and District Councils, Head Teachers, Hospital Matrons, Nurses and Voluntary Organisations—for their valuable help in dealing with the many and varied matters affecting the public health of the South-West Kent United Health Area.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

S. NICOL GALBRAITH,
Medical Officer of Health.

SOUTH-WEST KENT JOINT HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1938.

Chairman :

E. E. SELMES, J.P., representing Tenterden R.D.

Members :

J. ROLLINGS, J.P. ...	...	...	...	representing	Cranbrook R.D.
E. E. ASHBY, ...	...	...	...	„	Cranbrook R.D.
J. B. LEAVER ...	...	...	...	„	Maidstone R.D.
Dr. T. MARTIN ...	...	...	...	„	Tenterden Borough
Mrs. E. HYATT-WOOLF ...	...	...	...	„	Tonbridge R.D.
Col. E. R. P. BOILEAU, J.P. ...	...	...	...	„	Tonbridge R.D.
G. I. ADAMS ...	...	...	...	„	Southborough U.D.
Dr. K. M. GOWER-ISAAC...	...	...	...	„	Tonbridge U.D.
L. HEARMON, J.P. ...	...	...	...	„	Tonbridge U.D.

Clerk : B. LEE, 48 Pembury Road, Tonbridge.

CHAIRMEN, CLERKS AND SURVEYORS OF THE CONSTITUENT DISTRICT COUNCILS, 1938.

Col. E. R. P. Boileau, J.P., Chairman ...	...	...	...	Tonbridge R.D.
B. Lee, District Clerk, 48 Pembury Road, Tonbridge ...	...	...	...	„
W. N. Miller, Surveyor, 48 Pembury Road, Tonbridge	...	...	...	„
John Rollings, J.P., Chairman ...	...	...	...	Cranbrook R.D.
Major E. Clarke, District Clerk, Council Offices ...	...	...	...	„
F. J. Watts, Surveyor, No. 1 District, Crithall, Benenden ...	...	...	...	„
F. G. Smith, Surveyor, No. 2 District, Ferncroft, Station Road, Hawkhurst ...	...	...	...	„
J. A. Raynham, J.P., Chairman ...	...	...	...	Maidstone R.D.
F. D. Thomas, District Clerk, 26 Tonbridge Road ...	...	...	...	„
T. A. Busbridge, Surveyor, 26 Tonbridge Road...	...	...	...	„
Ernest E. Selmes, J.P., Chairman ...	...	...	...	Tenterden R.D.
P. G. Banfield, District Clerk, 5 East Hill ...	...	...	...	„
Horace Parks, Surveyor, 5 East Hill ...	...	...	...	„
Mrs. E. A. Adams, J.P., Mayor ...	...	...	...	Tenterden Borough
I. T. Emberson, Clerk, Town Hall ..	...	...	...	„
G. L. Turner, Surveyor, Town Hall ...	...	...	...	„
T. Young, J.P., Chairman ...	...	...	...	Southborough U.D.
W. N. Wood, Clerk, Council Offices ...	...	...	...	„
T. A. Scott, Surveyor, Council Offices ...	...	...	...	„
L. Hearmon, J.P., Chairman ...	...	...	...	Tonbridge U.D.
S. J. Thorne, Clerk, The Castle ...	...	...	...	„
B. Bishop, Surveyor, The Castle ...	...	...	...	„

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

S. NICOL GALBRAITH, M.B., Ch.B., University of Glasgow, 1907 ; University of Cambridge, 1912 ; D.P.H.

Public Health Office, Yardley Ridge, Tonbridge (Tel. Tonbridge 577).
Appointed M.O.H. to South-West Kent Area on September 1st, 1923.

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health :

Miss D. Singleton.

HEALTH NURSE :

Miss E. K. Mackley, S.R.N., R.F.N., S.C.M.

DISTRICT HEALTH INSPECTORS :

Cranbrook Rural District

No. 1 District (parishes of Benenden, Cranbrook and Frittenden) :—

F. J. Watts, Crithall, Benenden. (Tel. 3133).

No. 2 District (parishes of Goudhurst, Hawkhurst and Sandhurst) :—

F. G. Smith, Ferncroft, Station Road, Hawkhurst. (Tel. 239).

Both of the above Inspectors are also Building Surveyors for their respective Districts. Watts is the Senior Sanitary Inspector and superintends the Cranbrook and Tenterden Joint Isolation Hospital.

Maidstone Rural District

D. T. Sedgwick, Council Offices, 26 Tonbridge Road, Maidstone. (Tel. 2414).

Residence : Chart Sutton. (Tel. 54 Sutton Valence).

Assist. Inspector : W. J. Davies, Council Offices.

Tenterden Rural District

Horace Parks, 5 East Hill, Tenterden. (Tel. 72). Acts also as Surveyor.

Tonbridge Rural District

E. A. P. May, Council Offices, 48 Pembury Road, Tonbridge. (Tel. 1093).

Residence : Leigh Road, Hildenborough. (Tel. 2232).

Assist. Inspector : J. W. Hughes, Council Offices.

Southborough Urban District

T. A. Scott, Council Offices, Southborough. (Tel. 570). Acts also as Surveyor.

Tenterden Borough

G. L. Turner, Town Hall, Tenterden. (Tel. 61). Acts also as Surveyor.

Tonbridge Urban District

M. Jenner, Council Offices, The Castle. (Tel. 242).

STAFFS OF ISOLATION HOSPITALS.

Cranbrook and Tenterden Joint Hospital, Cranbrook. (Tel. 2152).

Clinical M.O. : Dr. Parish. (Tel. 190 Cranbrook).

Matron : Miss Wright.

Maidstone R. D. Hospital, Loose. (Tel. 85120 Hunton).

Clinical M.O. : Dr. Falwasser. (Tel. 3520 Maidstone).

Matron : Miss Gordon.

Tonbridge Joint Hospital, Capel. (Tel. 17 Pembury).

Clinical M.O. : Dr. Herman. (Tels. 236 and 181 Tonbridge).

Matron : Mrs. Graham.

VITAL AND OTHER STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	171,393
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80,297
Population (Registrar-General's estimate mid-year 1938)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	83,314
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£557,450
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£2,215
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24,653

Births

The birth-rate for South-West Kent compared with the countries of England and Wales for 1938 shows the rate to be 1·6 lower (see Table I). The total live births was 1,126, and still-births 44. Births exceeded deaths by 99.

Deaths

The death-rate for South-West Kent was 0·7 higher than for the countries of England and Wales. (See Table I.).

Of the 1,027 deaths in 1938, 346 died from heart disease and 149 from cancer. Motor fatalities (deaths from violence) again account for 41 deaths. Of these 15 were in Maidstone Rural District, which has fast coastal roads.

Infantile Mortality

The rate for South-West Kent during 1938 was 39·0, and for England and Wales 53·0, the former was 14·0 lower, which is very satisfactory. Cranbrook Rural District had the highest infant mortality rate, namely, 95·0 infant deaths in each 1,000 births. The Borough of Tenterden again had no infant deaths at all.

Maternal Mortality

The comparative rates for South-West Kent and England and Wales are given hereunder :—

				Puerperal Sepsis	Others	Total
Rate per 1,000 live births—						
England and Wales	...	...	...	0·89	2·19	3·08
South-West Kent	...	...	...	1·77	1·77	3·54
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—						
England and Wales	...	...	...	0·86	2·11	2·97
South-West Kent	...	...	...	1·71	1·71	3·42

TABLE I.—BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY FOR 1938

	Rate per 1,000 of Population		ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION								Rate per each 1,000 Live Births	
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers.	Smallpox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 yrs.)	Total Deaths under 1 yr.
ENGLAND & WALES ...	15.1	0.60	11.6	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.03	0.07	0.11	5.5	53
126 County Boroughs and great towns including London	15.0	0.65	11.7	0.00	...	0.05	0.01	0.03	0.07	0.10	7.8	57
148 smaller towns (Resident populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census, 1931) ...	15.4	0.60	11.0	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.06	0.11	3.6	51
LONDON ...	13.4	0.48	11.4	0.00	...	0.06	0.01	0.03	0.05	0.06	13.1	57
SOUTH-WEST KENT ...	13.5	0.53	12.3	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.15	3.5	39
Cranbrook R.D. ...	12.7	0.57	13.9	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.23	5.9	95
Maidstone R.D. ...	16.6	0.53	12.8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	7.7	42
Tenterden R.D. ...	12.9	1.11	11.4	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.16	0.0	0
Tonbridge R.D. ...	12.6	0.41	12.1	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.05	4.1	49
Southborough U.D. ...	12.9	0.00	15.7	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	10
Tenterden Borough ...	11.1	1.16	13.1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0
Tonbridge U.D. ...	13.0	0.51	9.9	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.23	0.0	17

TABLE II.—SHOWING CAUSES OF DEATH (INFANTS AGE ONE
YEAR AND UNDER) 1938

	Cranbrook R.D.	Maidstone R.D.	Tenterden R.D.	Tonbridge R.D.	Southborough U.D.	Tenterden Borough.	Tonbridge U.D.	Total.
Asphyxia ... ..	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	2
Bronchitis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Convulsions	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	2
Congenital stricture of food pipe	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ heart disease ... ..	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ malformation ... ..	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	2
„ morbus cordis ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
„ pulmonory atresia ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Cardiac failure ... ..	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gastro-enteritis	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	3
Inanition	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Intussusception	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	2
Marasmus ... ..	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2
Miliary Tuberculosis ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Neonatorum melæna ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
„ icterus	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia	2	2	...	1	...	...	1	6
Respiratory failure	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Prematurity	5	4	...	2	...	...	...	11
Streptococcal septicæmia ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
	16	11	...	12	1	...	4	44

TABLE III.—SHOWING CAUSES OF DEATH (ALL AGES)

Supplied by Registrar-General

	Totals	Cranbrook R.D.	Maidstone R.D.	Tenterden R.D.	Tonbridge R.D.	Southborough U.D.	Tenterden Borough.	Tonbridge U.D.
Measles	4	1	...	1	1	...	...	1
Scarlet fever	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Diphtheria	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Influenza	13	3	4	1	1	...	...	4
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	40	5	10	...	11	3	2	9
Other tuberculous diseases ...	15	2	...	2	4	3	1	3
Syphilis	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
General paralysis of the insane, etc.	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Cancer	149	24	21	14	34	19	7	30
Diabetes	13	1	3	...	4	2	1	2
Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc. ...	44	3	8	...	11	10	1	11
Heart disease	346	61	58	34	79	50	21	43
Aneurysm	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Other circulatory diseases ...	58	14	19	4	7	7	...	7
Bronchitis	14	6	...	...	2	2	1	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	36	10	3	3	10	2	1	7
Other respiratory diseases ...	6	2	3	...	...	...	...	1
Peptic ulcer	9	...	3	...	2	3	...	1
Diarrhœa (under 2 yrs.)	4	1	2	...	1	...	...	...
Appendicitis	7	...	4	...	1	1	...	1
Cirrhosis of liver	4	1	...	...	3	...	...	...
Other liver diseases	7	1	...	1	2	...	1	2
Other digestive diseases	31	5	4	3	10	4	2	3
Acute and chronic nephritis ...	25	1	9	3	5	2	...	5
Puerperal sepsis	3	...	...	...	2	...	...	1
Other puerperal diseases	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital debility, premature birth, etc.	27	10	8	...	6	1	...	2
Senility	23	4	3	1	6	1	2	6
Suicide	7	1	...	1	1	...	2	2
*Other violence	41	6	15	1	8	1	1	9
Other defined diseases	90	18	22	2	18	9	2	19
Ill-defined or not known	4	2	...	...	2	...	...	...
	1,027	183	201	72	232	121	45	173

* Includes motor fatalities.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD**School Milk**

Practically all the schools in the South-West Kent area are supplied with milk in bottles at a cheap rate through the scheme arranged by the British Milk Marketing Board with the Kent Education Committee.

During 1938 the following samples were taken for bacteriological examination for cleanliness once every quarter at the schools in the various Districts :—

District.	Total Samples.	No. Satisfactory.	No. Unsatisfactory.
Cranbrook R.D.	31	30	1
Maidstone R.D.	49	40	9
Tenterden R.D.	11	11	—
Tonbridge R.D.	43	34	9
Southborough U.D.	18	16	2
Tenterden Borough	9	9	—
Tonbridge U.D.	34	28	6
	195	168	27

Of the unsatisfactory samples, in Maidstone Rural, Tonbridge Rural and Urban Districts, the same dairymen supply several of the schools. In each instance they were requested to forward their reasons for the adverse reports, and these were communicated to the County Medical Officer. The producers' premises are inspected by the various Inspectors from time to time, and any improvements needed or defects found pointed out to the farmers.

Accredited Milk

There are a total of 74 accredited producers in the South-West Kent area, as follows : Cranbrook R.D. 25, Maidstone R.D. 8, Tenterden R.D. 15, Tonbridge R.D. 21, Southborough U.D. 1, Tenterden Borough 3, and Tonbridge U.D. 1.

The number of producers of accredited milk is still increasing, and the following figures show the number of samples collected in the respective Districts by the various Inspectors, showing the results :—

District.	Total Samples.	No. Satisfactory.	No. Unsatisfactory.
Cranbrook R.D.	106	79	27
Maidstone R.D.	29	24	5
Tenterden R.D.	12	7	5
Tonbridge R.D.	85	61	24
Southborough U.D....	4	4	—
Tenterden Borough...	7	7	—
Tonbridge U.D.	5	4	1
	248	186	62

Samples of accredited milk are analysed every three months at the County Laboratory, but should the result be unsatisfactory, a second sample is collected forthwith, following on a notice to the producer of the adverse report. Should the second sample fail to comply with the prescribed conditions, the farm is visited by the County Veterinary Officer and the Agricultural Organiser, and a third sample taken at a given interval. In the event of this sample proving unsatisfactory, consideration is given to the suspension of the producer's licence by the Chairman of the County Committee responsible for the administration of the Milk (Special Designation) Order, 1936.

Tests for cleanliness of milk from tuberculin-tested herds. Samples were sent by the Inspectors from the following Districts :—

District.				Total Samples.	No. Satisfactory.	No. Unsatisfactory.
Cranbrook R.D.	...	...	...	11	8	3
Maidstone R.D.	...	...	...	14	12	2
Tonbridge R.D.	...	...	...	11	7	4
Southborough U.D.	...	...	...	7	6	1
Tonbridge U.D.	...	...	...	4	3	1
				47	36	11

The test applied was the methylene blue test for cleanliness only. The tuberculin testing of the animals is carried out by the whole-time Kent County Council Veterinary Officers.

Slaughter Houses and Knackers' Yards

These are regularly inspected by the qualified Meat Inspectors. The total amount of meat condemned during the year in the various Districts is given in tabular form under the separate Districts.

I desire to draw attention to the remarks of Inspector May, which apply to conditions in the whole area. Because of the number of small scattered slaughter houses "it is possible to inspect only about 50 per cent. of the whole" of the carcasses.

Tonbridge has the largest cattle market in the Area, which is badly situated in the middle of the town, near the Castle. Traffic becomes heavily congested on market days. Some years ago I suggested that the Market Company should move its market out to, say, Paddock Wood and run a public abattoir in conjunction with it. For the Maidstone district another could be erected at Staplehurst, both good rail and road centres. Such an arrangement would best serve the interests of the farmers, butchers and consumers.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS

Work done at the County Laboratory, in Connection with Notifiable Diseases

TABLE IV

District.	Total sent.	Diphtheria Bacilli.	Positive.	Tubercle Bacilli.	Positive	Typhoid Bacilli.	Positive.	Hæmolytic Streptococci.	Positive.	Anthrax Bacilli.	Positive.	Dysentery Bacilli.	Positive.
Cranbrook R.D....	704	432	16	54	8	6	...	212	65	...	...	...	...
Maidstone R.D. ...	228	120	6	69	12	3	...	36	3	...	...	...	...
Tenterden R.D. ...	52	10	...	22	3	1	...	19	2	...	...	...	...
Tonbridge R.D. ...	445	268	23	71	17	18	6	86	20	2	...	...	...
Southborough U.D.	57	18	...	20	7	...	...	19	3	...	...	...	...
Tenterden Borough	42	30	...	10	2	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...
Tonbridge U.D. ...	675	431	9	108	20	29	5	103	6	...	...	4	4
	2,203	1,309	54	354	69	57	11	477	100	2	...	4	4

The above table gives an indication of the increased work undertaken at the Kent County Laboratories in connection with the examination of specimens in respect of infectious diseases. Bacteriological examinations are also carried out at the branch laboratory attached to the County Hospital, Pembury, of swabs, etc. received from the Capel Isolation Hospital.

STREPTOCOCCUS PYOGENES (STREPTOCOCCUS HÆMOLYTICUS)

The following short description of this new microbe is taken from "Muir's Bacteriological Atlas" of 1937: "It is a gram-positive coccus appearing in chains of moderate length, it is responsible for a wide variety of inflammatory processes affecting the human subject, such as abscesses, cellulitis, erysipelas, septicæmia, pyæmia, puerperal sepsis, broncho-pneumonia, tonsillitis, ulcerative endocarditis, and scarlet fever."

Dated May 14th, 1937, Dr. Galbraith wrote to Dr. Ponder, County M.O. :—

"There seems to be some doubt regarding the value of reports upon the organism known as the streptococcus hæmolyticus. I would be glad to have your advice upon what action you recommend to be taken upon such reports. No doubt you are in possession of some definite ruling from the Ministry of Health. I shall be obliged therefore if you can let me have the following information :—

"(1) Is a positive report intended to be accepted in the same category in relation to scarlet fever as the bacillus diphtheriæ is to diphtheria ?

"(2) Do you advise that positive cases be admitted to hospital even though there was no clinical symptoms of scarlet fever ?

"(3) Should cases of scarlet fever be kept in hospital until two negative swabs for hæmolytic streptococci are received, as we do at present with diphtheria cases ? "

Dated May 20th, 1937 Dr. Ponder replied to Dr. Galbraith :—

"(1) The hæmolytic streptococci need not essentially be in the same category

in relation to scarlet fever as the bacillus diphtheriæ is to diphtheria. Scarlet fever is due to a hæmolytic streptococcus, but all hæmolytic streptococci do not give rise to scarlet fever.

“(2) Positive cases of hæmolytic streptococci should not be admitted to hospital or considered as scarlet fever cases in the absence of clinical symptoms. It must be borne in mind that the symptoms of scarlet fever may vary considerably.

“(3) At present I do not consider it practicable to insist on two negative swabs before a patient who has suffered from scarlet fever is allowed to leave hospital. In too large a proportion of cases the organisms may be found for a long time—perhaps months—and there appears to be small risk of secondary cases arising from these patients unless there is in addition some pathological condition of throat, nose or ear.”

Dated May 24th, 1939, Dr. Ponder wrote to Dr. Galbraith :—

“In reply to your letter of 22/5/39, respecting the relation of hæmolytic streptococci to scarlet fever, with our present knowledge the statements made in the first two sections of my letter of 20/5/37 of course, remain unaltered. With regard to the third section of my letter referred to above, relating to the discharge of patients who have suffered from scarlet fever, the opinion generally held now, with which I agree, is that scarlet fever patients may be discharged after four weeks’ treatment providing complications are absent and nose, throat and ear swabs show no hæmolytic streptococci to be present. It is suggested that the taking of the swabs should be commenced to allow the patient being discharged at the end of four weeks if the results of three consecutive swabs taken at intervals of not less than three days are negative and no complications are present.

“These steps taken in conjunction with the usual discharge examination should make it quite safe to accept four weeks’ stay in hospital as a routine. The above recommendations on the discharge of scarlet fever patients are those which I have also made to the Medical Superintendent of Keycol Hill Hospital.”

HOUSING

The following table shows the position with regard to houses built in the respective Districts of South-West Kent Area :—

TABLE V

	Cranbrook R.D.	Maidstone R.D.	Tenterden R.D.	Tonbridge R.D.	Southboro' U.D.	Tenterden Borough.	Tonbridge U.D.	Totals S.W. Kent.
Total houses built by Council ...	118	240	236	603	54	112	660	2,023
Total houses built by Council in 1938 ... ..	...	38	...	18	...	...	14	70
Total houses on hand or sanctioned	62	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Total houses built by private persons in 1938	24	85	38	74	55	16	92	384

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Fever Hospitals

There are now three hospitals provided in South-West Kent Area for the treatment of infectious diseases (other than smallpox), particulars of which are included in my Annual Report for 1935. The hospitals are : (1) Cranbrook and Tenterden Joint Hospital, (2) Maidstone R.D. Hospital, Loose, (3) Tonbridge and Tonbridge R.D. Joint Hospital, Capel.

The Southborough Urban District's Isolation Hospital was closed in June, 1938 following a conference held on February 4th, 1938, between representatives of the Kent County Council, the Tunbridge Wells Corporation and the Southborough Council, which was attended by your M.O.H., whereby the Corporation agreed to take cases of infectious disease (scarlet fever and diphtheria) occurring in the Southborough Urban District into its Sanatorium upon the same terms as are in force with regard to enteric fever.

Thus is successfully completed the protracted negotiations, extending over many years, with neighbouring authorities regarding the closing of the Southborough Urban District Council's Isolation Hospital. It was one of my first pieces of work when appointed Medical Officer of Health in 1923 to report, by the instructions of the Southborough and adjoining Councils, upon the local hospital needs, accommodation and to advise upon amalgamation.

Hospital Accommodation for Typhoid Fever in Maidstone R.D.

The M.O.H. wrote the Clerk dated February 15th, 1938 as follows :—

“ In considering the report of the Croydon typhoid epidemic totalling 310 cases and 43 deaths issued to-day, it has occurred to me to raise the question of hospital accommodation for cases of this disease.

In the event of typhoid fever occurring in the Maidstone Rural District, would your Council give me permission to admit such cases to the new cubicle block ? If so, how many cases could be admitted ?

The last case notified on 19/9/36 was treated at home. As far as I can recollect, all the cases have either been treated at home or admitted to the West Kent General Hospital, not a satisfactory arrangement for fever cases.

At the Tonbridge Joint Hospital there is a separate block set apart for this disease. I would be glad to have the instructions of your Council regarding this matter. I recollect raising the question when Mr. Champion was Chairman but no definite direction appears to have been given to me then.”

The Clerk replied dated March 24th, 1938 :—

“ Referring to your letter of the 15th ultimo, after considering the Medical Officer of the Hospital's observations on the proposal to use the Observation Block for typhoid fever cases in the event of an emergency, it was resolved that this could be allowed in such emergency and that a number not exceeding four patients could be admitted.”

On March 21st, 1938, the M.O.H. made an inspection of the observation block at the Loose Isolation Hospital. Dr. Falwasser, and the Matron, Miss Gordon, were interviewed and it was agreed that cases of typhoid fever can be admitted to this block. This brings the Maidstone Rural District into line with all the other districts in South-West Kent Area as regards hospital accommodation for infectious disease.

Smallpox, Tuberculosis, and General Hospitals

Particulars of these, which remain unaltered, are given in my 1935 Annual Report.

Health Nurse

The work of the Health Nurse, Miss E. K. Mackley, employed jointly by the Tonbridge Rural and Urban Districts under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health continues to be very useful in the prevention of the spread of infectious disease. The other five Councils, viz., Cranbrook and Maidstone Rural Districts, Southborough Urban and the two Tenterden Districts have also agreed to avail themselves of her services when required.

A short report giving details of her visits and treatment of home and school contacts, together with totals of cases of minor infectious diseases visited in which parents were advised as to care and treatment, is attached.

WORK DONE BY HEALTH NURSE DURING 1938

	Cranbrook R.D.	Maidstone R.D.	Tenterden R.D.	Tonbridge R.D.	Southboro' U.D.	Tonbridge U.D.
Number of—						
Visits to contacts with scarlet fever ...	5	14	9	105	1	89
Throat treatments given	4	13	3	147	...	212
Visits to patients discharged after scarlet fever ... ..	...	...	...	87	2	130
Visits to contacts with diphtheria ...	10	8	...	104	...	32
Throat treatments given	27	9	...	106	...	20
Visits to patients discharged after diphtheria... ..	...	2	...	65	...	7
Visits to schools	8	14	3	19	1	18
Scholars examined	178	919	287	590	100	1,414
Throat treatments given to school and home contacts	591	737	156	731	1	1,571
Scholars excluded for sore throat, peeling or nasal discharge	3	...	2	1	...	2
Swabs taken for diphtheria	35	20	...	131	4	42
Positive... ..	2	...	...	5	...	...
Swabs taken for hæmolytic streptococci ...	3	3	11	51	26	73
Positive... ..	...	...	1	10	4	2
Visits to cases of Tuberculosis ... ..	...	...	...	24	...	2
Mumps ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping cough ... ..	...	...	...	6	...	...
Chicken-pox ... ..	...	...	...	66	...	17
Measles ... ..	...	...	...	145	...	96
Rubella ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tonsillitis ... ..	...	...	...	9	...	...
Dysentery ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	3
Acute poliomyelitis	1	6	...	2	1	1
Visits to contacts with typhoid ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	...
smallpox ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	1
puerperal pyrexia ... ..	...	...	...	9	3	9
Visits to hop farms in connection with infectious disease... ..	4	2	...	5	...	...
Visits to registered nursing homes... ..	4	...	...	2	2	8
Other visits	2	...	...	107	5	17

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Notifiable Diseases during the Year

TABLE VI

Infectious Disease	Cranbrook R.D.	Maidstone R.D.	Tenterden R.D.	Tonbridge R.D.	Southboro' U.D.	Tenterden Borough.	Tonbridge U.D.	Total.
Scarlet fever	6	24	4	25	4	7	19	89
Diphtheria	9	5	...	37	...	1	7	59
Enteric fever ... ..	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	3
Pneumonia... ..	15	8	1	11	4	3	28	70
Erysipelas	2	3	...	3	3	2	7	20
Puerperal pyrexia... ..	2	3	...	3	4	...	5	17
Acute anterior poliomyelitis ...	2	1	...	1	...	...	1	5
Dysentery ... ..	...	...	...	6	...	...	6	12
Anthrax ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
	36	44	5	89	15	13	74	276

Infectious Disease.

The total number of cases in my Area during the year 1938 was 276, an increase of 6 over the previous year. There were less cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria but more of pneumonia. Tonbridge Rural District had the largest number of diphtheria cases, totalling 37, 10 of these occurring at the County Hospital, Pembury.

Smallpox

No cases were notified during the year in the South-West Kent Area.

The Port of London Authority advised your M.O.H. of two contacts to a case of confluent smallpox which occurred on board a ship from India, one in the Rural District and one in the Urban District of Tonbridge, the latter was a member of the crew. They were visited and kept under observation until the incubation period was past. A warning notice was given to the public by the courtesy of the local press and vaccination recommended.

Cases were reported to have occurred at Gravesend in North Kent, which information was conveyed to all the doctors in the South-West Kent Area by circular letter.

A Paddock Wood doctor called in your M.O.H. in consultation regarding a suspected smallpox in an adult male. The diagnosis was chicken-pox. The Medical Officer to the Dislingbury Joint Smallpox Hospital (Dr. Linton of Tunbridge Wells) was also conferred with, and he confirmed my diagnosis.

A medical practitioner called the M.O.H. out to Wittersham regarding doubtful cases of smallpox in the family of a British soldier at home on leave. After examination and consultation, I diagnosed urticaria, which is an acute skin affection.

Scarlet Fever

There was a decrease in the number of cases which occurred during 1938, viz., 89, compared with the previous year's figure of 104. There were no deaths during the year. Only two hop-picker cases occurred, both in Cranbrook Rural District.

In connection with the above cases, the schools affected were visited by the M.O.H. and throat treatments with antiseptic were given by the Health Nurse. Home contacts were also visited and in most cases antiseptic treatment carried out.

See the section on bacteriological examinations for notes on the relationship of the microbe called *streptococcus hæmolyticus* to the causation of scarlet fever.

Diphtheria

This disease was fairly prevalent during the year, a total of 59 cases being reported with one death; in the previous year there were 62 cases with 3 deaths. Tonbridge Rural District had most cases, totalling 37; of these 10 occurred at the County Hospital, Pembury; in addition 1 "carrier" was found, and 3 of the cases were of hop-pickers' children. Of the Cranbrook Rural cases, 2 occurred in hop-pickers' children.

Inspections were carried out at the schools and homes by the M.O.H. and Health Nurse where the cases had occurred, and swabs taken; in this way 3 "carriers" of the disease were traced and removed to hospital. Treatments of the contacts by painting with 1 in 10 carbolic oil were undertaken by the Health Nurse.

The County Laboratory, Maidstone, arranged, at the request of the M.O.H., for the swabbing of a private school at Goudhurst, and 2 "carriers" were discovered.

Enteric Fever

Three cases of this disease occurred during the year, 2 in Tonbridge Rural District and 1 in Tonbridge Urban District, all of which recovered, 2 were of the mild paratyphoid type.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis)

Five cases were reported in the Area during the year and a sixth case, whose home address was in the Southborough Urban District, was diagnosed whilst in a Tunbridge Wells Hospital and accepted by the Corporation as occurring in its district. All the cases were admitted to the respective Isolation hospitals. They occurred in school children. The respective schools were visited by the M.O.H. and a special report upon the Bearsted School in Maidstone Rural District was submitted to the Council.

On the instructions of the M.O.H. the Health Nurse visited the various schools in South-West Kent where infantile paralysis cases had occurred, and carried out a systematic daily treatment by painting of the throats with carbolic oil on three successive occasions of all scholars in the classes affected. In no instance were there any subsequent cases; in my opinion as M.O.H. this prompt treatment carried out by the Health Nurse did definitely prevent the development of these isolated outbreaks into epidemics.

It is desirable to record that I have noted on two occasions that foot and mouth disease broke out in cattle a week after the occurrence of cases of infantile paralysis in two parishes. I have never heard of these two diseases being associated, but as they are both caused by ultra-microscopic viruses, it might be a matter for expert pathologists to investigate.

Dysentery

Twelve cases were notified, 6 in the Urban District of Tonbridge and 6 in the Rural ; 4 of the latter occurred at the County Hospital, Pembury.

Anthrax

A case of human anthrax occurred in the Tonbridge Rural District of a man, aged 24 years, who was treated in the County Hospital, Pembury ; he made a good recovery.

Minor Infectious Diseases

During the year 1938 head teachers notified a total of 1,076 cases of actual or suspected minor infectious diseases as follows :—Measles 727, chicken-pox 250, impetigo 46, whooping cough 16, scabies 8, ringworm 6, mumps 6, chills 6, tonsillitis 7, conjunctivitis 4.

Tuberculosis

No action was taken during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 or under the Public Health Act, Section 172.

The following figures show the number of new cases notified and the number of deaths registered in each of the constituent Districts in South-West Kent Area during the year 1938 :—

TABLE VII

District	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Cranbrook R.D.	4	...	...	...	4	1	...	2
Maidstone R.D.	10	8	2	1	5	5	...	...
Tenterden R.D.	1	3	2	1	...	1	...	1
Tonbridge R.D.	16	10	...	2	7	6	1	1
Southborough U.D.	3	3	2	...	3	2	1	...
Tenterden Borough	1	1	1	...	1	1	1	...
Tonbridge U.D.	6	6	3	2	5	5	1	1
	41	31	10	6	25	21	4	5
	72		16		46		9	

A quarterly return is submitted to the County Medical Officer of Health showing the total number of cases on the Register ; the following figures show the total cases in the respective Districts at the end of 1938 :—

TABLE VIII

District	TOTAL	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
Cranbrook R.D.	154	61	44	24	25
Maidstone R.D.	158	48	61	28	21
Tenterden R.D.	48	18	19	5	6
Tonbridge R.D.	158	59	46	33	20
Southborough U.D.	93	25	36	20	12
Tenterden Borough	20	7	10	1	2
Tonbridge U.D.	144	47	40	36	21
Totals	775	265	256	147	107
		521		254	

MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES

The following is a list of the Nursing Homes registered in South-West Kent Area :—

Cranbrook R.D.

- Mrs. H. E. Peirson, The Danes, Cranbrook.
- Mrs. Corps, Park View, Hawkhurst.
- Miss Tudor, Little Fowlers, Hawkhurst.
- Cottage Hospital, Hawkhurst.
- Ellenden Nursing Home, Sandhurst.
- Glassenbury House, Cranbrook.

Maidstone R.D.

- Rosemount Nursing Home (Miss C. Sayers), Roseacre, Bearsted.
- St. Faith's Home (Supt., Miss Tope), Bearsted.

Tonbridge R.D.

- Mrs. Budding, Haslemere, Hilden Park Road, Hildenborough.
- Mrs. Austen, Amberleaze Drive, Pembury.

Southborough U.D.

- Southborough Nursing Home (Mrs. Mannering), Park Road, Southborough.
- Nurses Ceaplen and Cassell, "Summer Court," Park Road, Southborough.

Tenterden Borough

- Mrs. Milton, Kench Hill, Tenterden.

Tonbridge U.D.

Miss Hill, Tonbridge Nursing Home, Dry Bank House, Dry Hill Park Road, Tonbridge.
Mrs. Shelton, 37 Lyons Crescent, Tonbridge.
Miss V. D. L. Gear, St. Mary's Nursing Home, 66 Quarry Hill, Tonbridge.

All the Nursing Homes in the Districts of my Area were visited and inspections made. Particulars as to the numbers of Homes in the various Districts and the numbers of patients provided for were furnished to the Ministry of Health on Form Hospital 8 for the year ending December 31st, 1938.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS
HOP-PICKING SEASON, 1938

Ministry of Agriculture Statistics

The following statement officially supplied by the Ministry of Agriculture shows the estimated total production of hops during the years 1937 and 1938 in each county of England :—

Counties, &c.			Estimated Total Produce		Acreage returned in June		Estimated Average Yield per Acre	
			1938	1937	1938	1937	1938	1937
Kent	East ...	...	Cwt. 31,700	Cwt. 29,800	Acres 1,906	Acres 1,864	Cwt. 16·6	Cwt. 16·0
	Mid ...	...	46,400	43,600	3,129	3,092	14·8	14·1
	Weald ...	...	72,200	56,300	5,091	4,961	14·2	11·3
	Total, Kent ...	...	150,300	129,700	10,126	9,917	14·8	13·1
Hants ...	...	...	10,100	7,500	595	558	17·0	13·3
Surrey...	...	...	1,200	1,300	106	112	11·9	11·6
Sussex...	...	...	27,600	18,900	1,654	1,583	16·7	11·9
Hereford	...	...	44,800	55,000	4,095	4,039	10·9	13·6
Worcester	...	...	22,400	22,000	1,834	1,818	12·2	12·0
Other counties*	...	...	600	600	50	66	11·8	9·5
Total	...	...	257,000	235,000	18,460	18,093	13·9	13·0

* Salop and Berkshire.

NOTE.—The total acreage under hops returned in 1938 by occupiers of agricultural holdings exceeding one acre in extent was slightly larger than that of the previous year and is the highest recorded since the sharp drop in acreage which occurred in the year 1932. All the chief hop-producing counties shared in the increase.
The weather conditions throughout the year were on the whole favourable, although the crop was somewhat backward in the early stages. The area left unpicked was estimated to be 61 acres as compared with 31 acres in the previous year.

The Ministry of Agriculture, in accordance with arrangements made, kindly supplies official statistics each year respecting the acreage of hops in each of the

following Districts in South-West Kent. There was an increase of 107 acres compared with the 1937 figure :—

Total for Kent County	1938 Acres 10,126	1937 Acres 9,917	1936 Acres 10,106
Cranbrook R.D.	1,730	1,700	1,775 $\frac{1}{2}$
Maidstone R.D.	2,164	2,126	2,180 $\frac{3}{4}$
Tenterden R.D.	370	357	365
Tonbridge R.D.	1,842	1,822	1,820 $\frac{1}{4}$
Tenterden Borough	146	140	143 $\frac{3}{4}$
Total for South-West Kent United Health Area	6,252	6,145	6,285 $\frac{1}{4}$

No inspections were made during the season of hop-picker camps by Ministry of Health officials.

The picking lasted about three weeks and passed without serious incident ; the weather was good.

In the Ministry of Health's report for the 1937 season, mention was made of various farms in the respective Districts where conditions were unsatisfactory, chiefly in connection with defective water supplies and latrine accommodation ; these were investigated by the Sanitary Inspectors concerned, who required the growers to get improvements carried out before the commencement of hop-picking, which were in most cases fully complied with.

Before the hop season started, my attention was drawn to the unsatisfactory conditions existing on hop farms in the neighbourhoods of Tonbridge and Maidstone, where home pickers are employed, with particular reference to sanitation, water supply and shelter in bad weather. I communicated with all the Inspectors in my Area and requested them to take note of such farms in their District, and to get the necessary provision made for these pickers.

Only four complaints were received, one in connection with overcrowding in Maidstone R.D., which was dealt with by the Sanitary Inspector ; two from Tonbridge Rural District in respect of water supply and latrine and cook-house accommodation respectively ; at the latter effective alterations were carried out at the Inspector's suggestion, which showed a remarkable improvement on last season. One complaint from Tenterden R.D. was regarding an encampment of gypsy hop-pickers at Biddenden who failed to make use of the latrine accommodation provided on the farm and consequently caused a nuisance to adjoining property. The Sanitary Inspector stated that the gypsies were employed at the farm every year during hop-picking and that reasonable sanitary accommodation was provided but evidently use was not made of the facilities. He reported that he was taking the matter up with the growers.

REPORTS OF SANITARY INSPECTORS ON HOP-PICKING

(1) **Cranbrook Rural** (No. 1 District, including the parishes of Cranbrook, Benenden and Frittenden). Mr. F. J. Watts, Senior Sanitary Inspector, reports :—

“Three months prior to the picking period preliminary inspections commenced and sixteen informal notices were issued. Three matters were outstanding when picking commenced and in one instance a strong caution was issued by the Council. The trenching of latrines, a matter which was adversely commented upon by Dr. Donelan the previous season, was greatly improved and there was little cause for complaint. The cleanliness of the camps, with but few exceptions, was good. Water supplies give rise to concern. Only 50 per cent. of the camps have a main supply available and most of the other camps rely on shallow wells and springs for a supply. Whilst samples taken have proved satisfactory, such supplies are always liable to pollution. I always advise boiling of the water before consumption in such cases and would like a note to this effect placed on the Bills which are pasted up in the Camps.”

(2) **Cranbrook Rural** (No. 2 Sub-District, including the parishes of Goudhurst, Hawkhurst and Sandhurst). Mr. F. G. Smith reports :—

“Of the forty-five hop farmers in my district, only five gave notice of their intention to occupy the lodgings as required by bye-law 2 (ii). In the case of C. J. Bannister, of Bokes Farm, Hawkhurst, this farm was not on the list of camps and I had no knowledge of its existence until I found the cottage at Kent Ditch occupied by hop-pickers.

The maintenance of the sanitary accommodation is still unsatisfactory, the daily covering with earth seldom being observed. In some cases the refuse has not been removed daily. Otherwise, the camps are well maintained, additional latrines have been provided at Iden Green farm as requested by your Council at the end of last season, and steps are being taken to avoid overcrowding, mains water supply has been laid on to thirty huts at Cherry Garden Farm, Goudhurst, and to forty-six huts at Hop House Farm, Sandhurst, also the spring at Hoad's Farm, Sandhurst, has been protected and the water piped near to the camp of eighteen huts. The water from the well at the camp at Conghurst Farm was found to be badly contaminated and a temporary supply was provided pending the cleaning out of the well and the obtaining of a good sample. Many minor repairs and improvements have been carried out at a number of farms.

There are 2,186 huts in this District this year and 66·8 per cent. are provided with Company's water and 80·8 per cent. have a proper supply piped to the camp. There are 45 hop farmers and 70 separate camps.”

(3) **Maidstone Rural**. Mr. D. T. Sedgwick, Senior Sanitary Inspector, reports on hop-picking as follows :—

“I am pleased to report that the hop-picking season of 1938 passed off satisfactorily.

There were no cases of infectious disease notified, and the health of the pickers was particularly good.

The improvement in the keeping of the camps noted last year has been well maintained, and there were no serious infringements of your hop-picking byelaws.

Since last season 120 new huts have been erected. As always during this period food supplies have needed a good deal of inspection, and I have to report a serious case of unsound food being sold to the pickers.

Mr. Davies, your additional sanitary inspector, on Saturday, September 17th, at 7.30 p.m., seized from a Hawker's van situated outside the Prince of Wales Inn, Collier Street, a joint of mutton found to be in an advanced state of decomposition, and totally unfit for human consumption.

This meat was taken to a magistrate, who condemned it, and ordered it to be destroyed.

It is strongly recommended that proceedings be taken against the hawker who comes from Greenwich.”

It is understood the man was fined £5.

(4) **Tonbridge Rural District.** Mr. E. A. P. May, Senior Sanitary Inspector, gives the following report :—

SUPERVISION OF HOP-PICKERS' ENCAMPMENTS

“The 1938 season commenced on August 29th and ended on September 25th, an estimated number of 13,000 people occupying the 90 camps in the district during this period.

Procedure of supervision followed on general lines that for 1937, much of the structural works being agreed and completed before the camps were occupied. All camps were posted with the usual bye-law abstracts, safety warnings, Health and Cleaniness Council slogans, etc. by two employees of the Council, who exercised patrols throughout the season. This was effective in securing generally tidy conditions.

Ministry of Health Report, dated March 29th, 1938.

In this report comment was made on the condition of Ploggs Hall camp, Capel, and Pearsons Green camp, Brenchley. Particular attention was given to these with the following results :—

Ploggs Hall.—The adapted two-storey building was disused in part, only the more substantial brick compartment being used and this by a family comprising 6 persons. Other defects were remedied and attention has been drawn to minor items still needing alteration.

Pearsons Green.—The subsidiary camp was the subject of criticism in the report. Here the double-storey compartment has now been provided with proper windows and the stairway repaired and strengthened. A new cook-house of the type illustrated in the Ministry of Health official booklet has been completed at this camp and two of the recommended type of portable closet installed in lieu of the original insanitary accommodation which has been abolished.

At the main camp twenty new huts of an excellent type, two cook-houses and six latrines, all of satisfactory design and construction have been erected. This camp now compares favourably with any other in the district.

Food Supply.—Vans delivering food to hop-farms were subjected to inspection and found to be dealing in satisfactory commodities.

Overcrowding.—The distribution of pickers is well arranged on the whole. Only one case of overcrowding was proved and this was abated on request the same day as investigated.

Complaints.—The Medical Officer of Health received a written complaint respecting conditions prevailing at Castlemaine Farm, Horsmonden. The occupier had already responded to requests for alterations—twenty closets of a portable pattern were installed in a proper manner and repairs to huts completed before the season; during the period of occupation fair control was exercised over scavenging and maintenance of closet accommodation. The improvement effected was marked and, as there is no reason to disbelieve that outstanding matters will be dealt with as already provisionally agreed, it was deemed injudicious to exert further pressure.

Fire Outbreak.—Unfortunately another outbreak of fire occurred this year. Fourteen timber huts at Whetstead Farm, Capel, were totally destroyed on September 8th. These were the lodgings referred to in the evening news-broadcast by the British Broadcasting Corporation transmitting stations on this day. No injury to human life was sustained. The fire spread rapidly before any effects could be rescued; salvage was practically nil and the loss sustained was considerable. Individual pickers were largely recompensed by the activities of charitable organisations. }

Tibbs Court, Brenchley.—This camp was fumigated and treated with liquid insecticide to deal with infestation by crickets.

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT AT HOP-PICKERS' CAMPS

Lodgings.

Number of new huts constructed	...	...	...	...	...	85
„ „ old huts abandoned	...	...	...	...	...	23
„ „ „ „ repaired	...	...	...	...	...	66

Cook-houses.

Number of new cook-houses built...	...	...	...	...	...	5
„ „ cook-houses remodelled or repaired...	...	...	...	...	...	7

Latrines.

Number of new latrines provided (model type)	...	...	...	...	56
„ „ „ „ (other types)	...	...	...	...	27
Number of latrines repaired	...	...	...	...	37
„ „ abolished	...	...	...	...	9

Water Supply.

Number of supplies extended	...	...	...	...	...	4
„ „ hot water supplies afforded	...	...	...	...	...	1

In many other instances the farmers agreed to carry out alterations but the workmanship was poor and resulted in very little real improvement. Such cases will receive attention as the circumstances merit in readiness for next season.

Particular difficulty has been experienced in impressing the need for careful adherence to detail when building or adapting latrine and cooking accommodation. Where practicable, it is always urged that skilled craftsmen be engaged for the work.

FRESH MILK SUPPLY FOR HOP-PICKERS

Mr. R. A. Lunn, of the British Milk Marketing Board, interviewed the M.O.H. twice at the Castle, Tonbridge, regarding the possibility of distributing fresh milk during the hop-picking especially for the children. Fresh milk in the hop-picking country is practically unobtainable at present, the pickers being supplied with canned and bottled sterilized milk by the London Combines. I supplied Mr. Lunn with the names and addresses of all of the hop growers in the Cranbrook, Maidstone and Tonbridge Rural Districts. From my personal knowledge of the Growers as Medical Officer of Health, I informed Mr. Lunn I was certain that they would willingly co-operate with the British Milk Marketing Board in any milk distributing scheme in the interests of the health of their employees, the hop-pickers and their children.

BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION WARNING

On September 1st, the M.O.H. wrote the British Broadcasting Corporation asking that the following warnings be broadcast ; these were transmitted on the evening of September 7th, 1938.

UNAUTHORISED VISITORS TO HOPFIELDS PROHIBITED

- (1) In South-West Kent, permanent hut and sanitary accommodation is provided for about 50,000 London or "foreign" pickers. Each hut on an average accommodates 5 pickers, 2 children under 12 years equal one adult. Consequently one hut should take just one family.

Only pickers booked by the growers are allowed on the farms to occupy the huts.

Unauthorised visitors, overcrowding the huts at the week-ends, render themselves liable to be handed over to the police by the farm bailiffs.

- (2) No person suffering from, or a contact to, infectious disease, including tuberculosis, is allowed to travel to or occupy a hut on the hopfields. The penalty for contravention being a fine not exceeding £10.

Infectious Disease

The local doctors and voluntary dispensaries in South-West Kent Area were again circularised by your M.O.H. regarding infectious disease arrangements which provide, in the case of general illness and accidents, for the services of the local parish doctor, made available to the dispensaries by the Public Assistance Committee of the Kent County Council. In the case of infectious illness, where a dispensary doctor or nurse is in doubt about a case, provision is made for the Isolation Hospital doctor to confirm a diagnosis should the M.O.H. not be available. The doctors and voluntary dispensaries were also advised that the services of the Tonbridge Health Nurse were available for swabbing contacts, etc. Some of the dispensaries in Cranbrook and Tonbridge Rural Districts were visited by the Health Nurse and supplied with antitoxin from the respective Isolation Hospitals on the recommendation of the M.O.H. for use during hop-picking, together with a supply of swabs; fortunately the former was not required, but good use was made of the swabs.

The M.O.H. of the London County Council sent copies of special leaflets which he again distributed to intending hop-pickers advising regarding infectious disease precautions.

The total cases of infectious disease occurring amongst hop-pickers in South-West Kent in 1938 was 18; of these 10 were notified from farms in South-West Kent and 8 were reported by Metropolitan Medical Officers of Health as having developed on return to London. Of the total, 3 were scarlet fever, 11 diphtheria, 1 poliomyelitis, and 3 pneumonia.

(a) *Cranbrook R.D.*—Occurring on farms: Diphtheria 2, scarlet fever 2, pneumonia 1. Occurring on return to London: Diphtheria 4, scarlet fever 1.

(b) *Maidstone R.D.*—Occurring on farms: Nil. Occurring on return to London: Diphtheria 1.

This is a remarkable record for this, the busiest hop-picking district in Britain.

(c) *Tonbridge R.D.*—Occurring on farms: Diphtheria 3, pneumonia 2. Occurring on return to London: Diphtheria 1, poliomyelitis 1.

The M.O.H. visited the farms where the cases occurred and advised the growers in each case to send the contacts home.

(a) In Cranbrook Rural District at a farm visited by the M.O.H. and Health Nurse swabs were taken of contacts to diphtheria and a child in an adjoining hut was found to have a discharging nose and excoriated nostrils. She was swabbed and returned home with her mother to London. Both throat and nasal organisms of this child proved to be positive to diphtheria, and after biological test proved to be virulent; this information was telephoned to the M.O.H. concerned and confirmed in writing.

The Camberwell M.O.H. replied that this child, together with another contact of the first family who was found to be positive, had both been seen on their return to London by their private doctors who took swabs with negative results in each case, also they had been swabbed by the L.C.C. School Medical Officer with negative results. It is difficult to reconcile these contradictory bacteriological reports from London and Kent regarding the same cases.

(b) An outstanding feature of the hop-picking season was the entire absence in Maidstone Rural District of any cases of infectious disease. The M.O.H. on the evening of Saturday, September 17th, was called out by Dr. Nicholson of the British Red Cross Society to see a child at Court Farm, Hunton, in Maidstone R.D. From the information given me by the doctor and on clinical examination we did not then arrive at a definite diagnosis, but decided it was pyrexia of unknown origin. The parents requested to take the child home and this was agreed to by Dr. Nicholson and myself. Subsequently, on making enquiries from the Sister at the British Red Cross Society's dispensary, I ascertained that the child had drunk some polluted water a week previously and that one of the symptoms, as well as pyrexia, was a coffee ground vomit. I then suspected the child might be suffering from typhoid fever and telephoned the doctor on Sunday morning, informing her that if the child had not been taken home to London I would agree to him being removed to Loose Hospital. The doctor informed me, however, that the child had already returned with its parents that morning. I therefore telephoned the Stepney Health Department on Monday morning giving them the facts which were confirmed in writing. I received a communication in reply stating that the child was attending the London Hospital.

The M.O.H. of Lewisham telephoned on September 10th stating that a child aged $2\frac{1}{2}$ years, suffering from acute anterior poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) and attending as an out-patient at Guy's Hospital, was discovered to have gone with her mother to the hopfields at Staplehurst. The M.O.H. at once visited the farm in question and interviewed the bailiff, advising him to send the patient with her mother back to London forthwith ; he arranged to do this and the M.O.H. concerned was advised.

The M.O.H. of West Ham advised that a family who were contacts to a case of infantile paralysis had come down to a hop farm at Hunton. The M.O.H. visited the farm and recommended the grower to send these contacts back.

(c) In Tonbridge Rural District, 3 cases of diphtheria occurred amongst hop-pickers, all on different farms, which were visited by the M.O.H. and advice given as to the return home of contacts. One of these, who had been swabbed before going back, proved positive and the London M.O.H. was advised by telephone.

The Croydon M.O.H. telephoned regarding a suspected case of infantile paralysis which had returned from the hopfields at Five Oak Green. Investigations were made at the farm but no one had reported sick and the contacts in the hut all appeared well. They returned to Croydon the following day.

The Medical Officer of Health for Deptford notified that a family who were contacts to a case of acute anterior poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) had come down to a hop farm at Hadlow. The M.O.H. together with Inspector May visited the farm and examined the contacts. In view of the large number of hop-pickers in the camp I considered it advisable to recommend the grower to send these contacts back to London. They returned the same evening and the Medical Officer of Health concerned was advised.

TABLE IX.—Showing the Seasonal Incidence of all Cases of Infectious Disease as Affected by Hop-picking in the South-West Kent Area

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	TOTAL
January	20	5	7	5	37
February	9	1	9	2	21
March	8	12	11	1	32
April	11	3	6	...	20
May	13	2	8	2	25
June	4	3	2	...	9
July	4	12	5	...	21
August	8	5	1	...	14
September	6	8	3	2	19
October... ..	3	1	...	1	5
November	5	8	8	3	24
December	5	4	9	4	22
	96	64	69	20	249

The above table is given at the request of the Ministry of Health and indicates the effect, if any, of the hop-picking and fruit-picking industries upon the health of the Area.

The fact that for cases of infectious diseases notified September came ninth, indicates that the general sanitation and conditions of the hop-picker camps is steadily but surely improving. This is the lowest number of cases of infectious diseases we have had in the month of September for ten years.

Non-Infectious Diseases : Work of Voluntary Organisations

The following interesting report, made by Col. A. Chopping, C.M.G., Hon. Medical Adviser to the Hop-pickers' Medical Treatment Board, has been received from the Secretary of the Kent Council of Social Service.

As will be noted in his report, the good work efficiently carried out by the officials, doctors, nurses and workers at the voluntary dispensaries, which have increased in number, continues to be much appreciated by all concerned, especially the pickers.

The statistics contained in the report cover the whole of Kent, but the majority of the dispensaries are in the South-West Kent Area, which, as stated earlier in this report, has 6,252 acres out of a total of 10,126 for the whole of Kent County.

As this is the Colonel's last report, I cannot let it pass without putting on record on behalf of my District Councils as their Medical Officer of Health, my deep appreciation of the thorough, painstaking and efficient work Dr. A. Chopping has done in co-ordinating, inspecting and recording the excellent

work of the Voluntary Hop-picking Organisations. It was in my Annual Report for 1924 that official attention was first drawn to this good work. Then I reported the treatment of 5,622 new cases, making 10,218 attendances at the Dispensaries. Thereafter the Kent Community Council, under the chairmanship of Mr. Guy Ewing, took the matter up and the logical development was the Hop-pickers' Medical Treatment Board. We thank Colonel A. Chopping, and in good British cricket terminology, "May he see his century!"

HOP-PICKERS' MEDICAL TREATMENT BOARD

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to place before you a short report of my visits to the Voluntary Medical Organisations working in the hop gardens of Kent for the season of 1938. I was accompanied on some of my visits by your Chairman, Colonel A. S. Barham, C.M.G., and by Dr. Jones, Assistant County Medical Officer.

The following voluntary medical organisations carry out first aid and medical work amongst the pickers :

- British Red Cross Society, London Branch.
- British Red Cross Society, Kent Branches 36 and 60.
- The Church of England Temperance Society Mission.
- The Church of England Mission to Hop Pickers, including St. Matthias Mission.
St. Columba's Mission.
Flimwell Church Mission.
- Horsmonden Hop-Pickers' Medical Mission.
- The Hop-Pickers' Mission for the Weald of Kent.
- Crowhurst Mission Association.
- Little Hoppers Hospital Mission.
- Staplehurst Medical Mission.
- Mereworth Dispensary.
- The Salvation Army, including Marden Hop-pickers' Hospital.

The headquarters and most of the dispensaries of the foregoing organisations were visited, and I cannot speak too highly of the work carried out by these societies. The dispensaries are well organised and equipped with the necessary instruments, drugs and dressings for carrying out first aid.

This year I am able to place before you a more correct return of the number of patients treated during the Season under review than I could last year, due to the fact that reports have been received from all the voluntary medical units working in the hop gardens.

These reports show the following :—

1. Camps looked after	...	...	...	...	319
2. New patients (those attending for the first time)	...	...	...	...	11,373
3. Attendances or treatments (in addition to above)	...	...	...	...	27,100
4. Transferred to Hospital for further treatment	...	...	...	...	159

In order that you may be able to compare the above figures with those of the last five years, they are given below :—

	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
CAMPS SERVED	334	338	320	329	319
PATIENTS TREATED :					
1. New patients (those attending for first time)	9,929	9,974	10,271	9,456	11,373
2. Attendances or treatments	24,341	23,153	24,998	25,016	27,100
3. Transferred to hospital for further treatment	208	152	123	145	159

There were 2 hospitals and 70 dispensaries functioning in the area, an increase of 10 dispensaries over last year. The staff included 8 doctors, 8 medical students, 38 trained nurses, 99 partly trained nurses (including V.A.D.s) and 13 others, in the dispensaries or at the headquarters of their Units.

The season of 1938 was a healthy one. A few sporadic cases of infectious disease occurred, which were promptly dealt with. No epidemic disease. No prevailing disease except those which occur every year.

Before leaving this part of my report, I think it is interesting to compare the statistics of 1931 (the first time statistics were placed before the Hop-Pickers' Medical Treatment Board) with those for the season of 1938. They show that the number of patients treated by your voluntary medical units has considerably increased during the last seven years. Also that the work is very much appreciated by the pickers, as proved by the largely increased number of attendances at the dispensaries.

The figures are :—

	1931.	1938.
CAMPS SERVED	309	319
PATIENTS TREATED :		
1. New patients—those attending for first time	6,622	11,373
2. Attendances or treatments	13,818	27,100
3. Transferred to other hospitals	128	159

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

1. BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY, LONDON BRANCH.

BUSTON MANOR.—The two windows in the roof of the hut are a great improvement, as also is the painting of the inside of the hut. The concrete platform and the fence in front of the hut are also great improvements. I still consider that a wooden floor should be laid down in the Treatment Room.

HUNTON.—The dispensary hut at Hunton is in bad repair. I recommend that, when funds become sufficient, a new hut be provided for the area, preferably on wheels like the Yalding hut. I also recommend that when a new hut is provided, it be erected on a new site.

COLLIER STREET.—I again recommend that when funds permit, this dispensary be moved to a more central position.

2. BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY, KENT BRANCH 36.

IDEN GREEN, BENENDEN, and GILLS GREEN, HAWKHURST dispensaries have been closed as I recommended last year. Instead of these dispensaries, two new ones have been opened—one in a hut supplied by the farmer, the other in Toc H Hall, lent by the owners. These dispensaries treated patients from Mill Street Farm, Watson's Farm, Iden Green, Benenden, Henley's Farm and Gills Green, Hawkhurst. In addition, nurses visited Pipers' Farm, Stewart Howes Farm, and Wheeler's Farm, and treated cases on the spot.

These dispensaries, as well as that at Tanyard Farm, were staffed and equipped by the B.R.C.S., V.A.D. Kent 36, Hythe Detachment.

I was informed that the Hythe Detachment would not be able to function another year. This is to be much regretted, and I should like to thank the members of the Detachment for the excellent work they have carried out for the last two years.

3. THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MISSION TO HOP-PICKERS.

PADDOCK WOOD.—I met the Rev. Edward Thompson, Vicar of Paddock Wood, by appointment. He informed me that he did not know whether the owners of the (so-called) Parochial Hall intended to use it as a dispensary this year or not. The hall was closed when I visited it. He also informed me that he had closed his two medical huts, one in Paddock Wood, the other at Queen Street, and had substituted a Dispensary Car. The car to be in the charge of a Church Army Sister and driven by a Church Army Cadet, and to visit the eleven farms in his area according to a rota each week-day. I inspected the car, which appeared to be very satisfactory, also the Church House (Paddock Wood Old Schools) which has been opened as a dispensary each evening from 7 o'clock onwards for the reception and treatment of patients.

ST. MATTHIAS MISSION.—The Rev. A. E. Raven was present when I visited Old Hay Dispensary, which is well organised and staffed. A small dispensary has been opened this year by Father Raven on a farm a short distance from Old Hay. It was in the charge of two Anglican Sisters at home on leave from Central Africa.

ST. COLUMBA MISSION.—Badsell Park Farm. A most excellent hut in charge of a qualified nurse.

FLIMWELL CHURCH MISSION.—New site, great improvement on the old one. The Vicar is considering extending his work so as to take in other Gardens.

4. CHURCH OF ENGLAND TEMPERANCE SOCIETY MISSION TO HOP-PICKERS.

Two new dispensary buildings have been provided this year for Boughton Church and Macnade. The original Boughton Church dispensary has been removed to Ensden, where there are three camps.

Two existing dispensaries have been enlarged by the provision of waiting-rooms. Other special equipment has been provided and experiments are being tried regarding a standard travelling case for use of the nurses.

5. HORSMONDEN HOP-PICKERS' MEDICAL MISSION.

No new developments.

6. THE HOP-PICKERS' MISSION FOR THE WEALD OF KENT.

GOUDHURST DISPENSARY.—A British Red Cross Society Sister in charge of the hut this year, who receives assistance from the local B.R.C.S. Detachment. Very great improvement this year in the cleanliness of the hut and in the equipment.

PATTENDEN DISPENSARY.—A new nurse, qualified, in charge this year. This dispensary serves seven or eight large camps.

FOUR WENTS AND HARTLEY DISPENSARIES.—Salvation Army first aid workers again in charge of these huts this year. Equipment is very scanty but perhaps enough.

7. CROWHURST MISSION.

No new developments.

8. LITTLE HOPPERS' HOSPITAL, FIVE OAK GREEN.

One patient, a small child, in hospital when I paid my visit. This hospital is staffed by one Matron and one trained Sister. The Rev. Asher in charge again this year. He reported that there were no new developments.

9. STAPLEHURST MISSION.

I interviewed the Vicar of Staplehurst, who is responsible for the Mission. He stated that he had under consideration the closing of the dispensary hut next year and the opening of a dispensary in the Parish Rooms near the Church. I inspected these rooms and consider them very suitable for the purpose—a waiting-room, dressing-room, and a dispensary could be arranged. Electric light and water are laid on.

10. MEREWORTH DISPENSARY.

Was not visited this year, as I was unable to arrive at the hut when it was open for the treatment of patients.

11. HOP-PICKERS' HOSPITAL, MARDEN, AND THE SALVATION ARMY.

This hospital is in charge of the Salvation Army this year. There is a resident doctor, matron and trained nurses, also a motor ambulance car. There were four children and one woman in hospital when I paid my visit.

I told the doctor in charge of the hospital that, in my opinion, he should not keep patients likely to be ill for some time, but should consider it as a detention and emergency hospital.

BENOVER.—A small dispensary with crèche. Scanty equipment but perhaps enough. Staffed by Salvation Army First Aid workers.

As this is the last time I shall be officially visiting these voluntary medical units, I should like to say, in conclusion, how much I have enjoyed my work amongst them, and watching the developments and progress made. I greatly appreciate the kindness and courtesy always shown to me, and the willingness with which my suggestions have been carried out.

A. CHOPPING.

Braiswick,

Hythe, Kent.

March 17th, 1939.

Colonel.

CRANBROOK RURAL DISTRICT

1938 HEALTH REPORT

General Statistics

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41,315
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,927
Population (Registrar-General's estimate mid-year 1938)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13,250
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£74,400
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£294
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to Rate Books...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,888

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year

					Total	Male	Female	
Live Births	{	Legitimate	...	...	160	92	68	
	{	Illegitimate	...	...	8	7	1	
					<hr/> 168	<hr/> 99	<hr/> 69	
Birth-rate per 1,000 of the resident population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12.7
Still-births	{	Legitimate	...	...	7	5	2	
	{	Illegitimate	...	...	0	0	0	
					<hr/> 7	<hr/> 5	<hr/> 2	
Stillbirth-rate per 1,000 of total (live and still) births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40.0
Deaths	...	...	...	...	183	98	85	
Death-rate per 1,000 of the resident population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.9
Deaths from puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil</i>
Death-rate of infants under one year of age :—								
All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	95.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	87.5
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	250.0
The actual number of infant deaths was	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Deaths from measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil</i>
Deaths from diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

Water Supplies

Mr. Douglas Murton-Neale, Secretary of the Cranbrook and District Water Company, reports that :—

“ No extensions of any length were carried out by the Water Company during 1938. The Company's activities were concentrated upon—

- (1) the completion and use of the new million gallon reservoir at Hartley ;
- (2) the scraping and re-lining of the main between Hartley and Tenterden Borough, a distance of nine miles, and the scraping and re-lining of the main from Goudhurst station to Hartley, a distance of approximately five miles.”

During the operation of item No. 2 a number of complaints were received with regard to discoloration and taste of the water. A number of cases of diarrhoea and sickness in small children were reported in Cranbrook. The Secretary of the Water Company was apprised of the facts, who informed me that it had been found the chlorine had a “ somewhat extraordinary effect on the Company's water ” and had been stopped for the time being, but that the plant was being retained for future use, when required. The explanation of the above effects obtained by the Secretary of the Waterworks from the firm who installed the chlorinating plant, was that the “ Chlorine has a very rapid precipitating effect on iron and manganese.” To eliminate all iron and manganese from the water the Company is arranging to instal a special Liming Plant at the Goudhurst Works.

A sample of water taken from the Company's main supply at the Cranbrook Isolation Hospital in May was bacteriologically examined and “ showed the presence of a typical *B. coli* in 100 c.cs.”

The Secretary of the Company was informed, who took steps to remedy the same and had further samples taken which were chemically and bacteriologically examined at the Counties' Public Health Laboratories, London, the reports of which were as follows :—

CHEMICAL RESULTS in parts per 100,000.

Appearance	Bright ; faint film deposit of mineral particles.	
Colour	Normal	Odour Nil
Reaction pH	Neutral 7·0	Free carbonic acid... .. 1·1
Electric conductivity at 20° C.	315	Total solids, dried at 180° C. ... 21·0
Chlorine in chlorides... ..	2·9	Alkalinity as calcium carbonate ... 7·0
Hardness ; Total	10·5	Temporary, 5·0 ; Permanent, 5·5
Nitrogen in nitrates	Nil	Nitrites Absent
Free ammonia	0·0096	Ammoniacal nitrogen —
Albuminoid ammonia	0·0000	Albuminoid nitrogen —
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 80° F.	0·005	
Metals : Iron	0·010	Manganese, etc. Absent

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of bacteria growing on Agar per c.c. or ml. in 1 day at 37° C.	...	...	1
		2 days at 37° C.	...
		3 days at 20° C.	...
The <i>Bacillus coli</i>	Present in —	Absent in 100 c.c.	1
<i>Bacillus welchii</i> (<i>B. Enteritidis sporogenes</i>) ...	Present in —	Absent in 100 c.c.	9

REPORT.—This sample is reasonably clear and bright and of normal colour, containing only a few particles of mineral matter in suspension. The water is neutral in reaction, of very moderate hardness, contains no excess of saline or mineral matter in solution, and no metals apart from a minute trace of iron.

The water is of *satisfactory organic quality and of a high degree of bacterial purity* and is considered pure and wholesome in character, and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Well Water

During the year Inspector F. J. Watts, dealing with the parishes of Benenden, Cranbrook and Frittenden, and Inspector F. J. Smith, dealing with the parishes of Goudhurst, Hawkhurst and Sandhurst, have been having a considerable number of well waters analysed bacteriologically; of these 44 were unsatisfactory and 19 satisfactory. The result has been to get a great number of the old wells closed and the houses connected to the public water supply. Mr. Smith reports regarding this matter as follows :—

“ Arising from the taking of these samples 4 water supplies were improved and 23 houses connected to the Company's mains. Five other houses have received notice to connect to the mains, but these are now the subject of an appeal to the Minister. Two other houses, the water supplies of which were found to be unsatisfactory in January, are still without a proper supply, the reason for this is that all the houses in the vicinity are supplied through private pipes and the owner will not permit any more to connect as there is insufficient pressure, and the Water Company have not yet extended their main down this street.”

Five Cases of Lead Poisoning from Home-made Cider

A London Physician, Dr. John Hunt, reported on April 11th, 1938, to the Minister of Health the occurrence of lead poisoning in two patients in the Cranbrook Rural District. At the request of Dr. W. H. Lethem, a Ministry M.O., through Dr. Constant Ponder, full enquiries were made by Dr. Nicol Galbraith, the M.O.H., and Inspector Watts. Mr. F. W. F. Arnaud, the County Analyst, reported the following amounts of lead in the first batch of four samples, $\frac{1}{6}$, $\frac{1}{57}$, $\frac{1}{57}$ and $\frac{1}{20}$ th of a grain of lead in each gallon of cider.

Mr. Arnaud wrote, dated April 29th, 1938 :—

“ In 1935 a case of lead poisoning was investigated and this was traced to home-made cider, some of which we found to contain as much as 1·02 grains of lead to the gallon. Enamel vessels were the probable source of the lead.”

Dr. Ponder wrote, dated May 5th, 1938 :—

“ As a daily dose of about 2 milligrams a day, that is, about 0·03 of a grain, is regarded as sufficient to give rise to the condition of chronic lead poisoning, in my opinion none of this cider should be consumed and its destruction should be recommended.”

This recommendation was conveyed in person and in writing by the M.O.H. to the proprietor. After the inspection made by the M.O.H. on May 16th, 1938, the owner asked for some further analyses to be made. Six samples from separate barrels were sent to Mr. Arnaud, and he reported that they each contained the following proportions of lead : $\frac{1}{50}$, $\frac{1}{40}$, $\frac{1}{13}$, $\frac{1}{40}$, $\frac{1}{70}$, $\frac{1}{60}$ th of a grain of lead to each gallon of cider. It was found that foreign enamel utensils had been used in the making of the cider. Enamel dippers were used for baling out the cider from the press and may have been left in the cider overnight. Two buckets were used to convey the cider some 200 feet to the barrels. One

dipper became so corroded with the apple acid that it had to be thrown away. An enamel bowl and pail on analysis were found to be almost free from lead, traces of lead were however found in the glaze. Some red paint on the casks consisted of iron oxide paint and contained approximately 0.6 parts of lead in 100.

A sample of main water supplied by the Cranbrook and District Water Company was free from lead.

Our conclusion is that the source of lead poisoning was the lead glaze of the foreign enamel utensils.

In future it is recommended that wooden utensils be used.

Altogether five persons suffered from the lead poisoning.

Drainage and Sewerage

Cranbrook

In the 1937 report I mentioned about the nuisance arising from the drainage of the Windmill Inn and the six adjoining cottages. This has now been permanently abated by connecting up the drainage to an extension of the main sewer.

Hawkhurst

The sewer at Gills Green, Hawkhurst, has been extended a distance of 726 feet to take the drainage from the twenty-four new Council houses and the six bungalows on Slip Mill Road. During the year the Council approved a revised scheme for the sewerage of Hawkhurst and entered into an agreement with the engineer to prepare the scheme. This scheme provides for entirely new sewage disposal works, the laying of intercepting sewers to connect up to all the existing sewers and to extend these sewers in certain cases.

Sandhurst

The drainage of the west side of Sandhurst was found to be very unsatisfactory, and the surveyor has been instructed to prepare a rough sewerage scheme for their consideration. This will be completed in the near future.

The employment of a regular staff now permits of these works being properly attended to.

Rivers and Streams

The disgusting pollution of the Cockshot stream, Hawkhurst, still continues and nothing can be done to remedy this until the new sewage scheme is installed for the town of Hawkhurst.

Closet Accommodation

In many cases in this district there is insufficient sanitary accommodation, there often being only one closet between two houses, and these are being dealt with as they are found. During the year 21 water closets have been provided to existing houses, 1 privy converted to a pail closet, 4 pail closets converted to water closets, and 5 privies converted to water closets.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Refuse collection in the parish of Goudhurst was carried out in the village only by contract ; in the parish of Hawkhurst there was a voluntary scheme ;

in the parish of Sandhurst there was a scheme carried out by the Parish Council. In each case the refuse was tipped without any attempt at proper control. In June the Council purchased a lorry and undertook the collection and disposal in the parishes of Goudhurst and Hawkhurst. This scheme provides for a weekly collection in the villages of Goudhurst and Hawkhurst, and a fortnightly collection in the remainder of each of these parishes. The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping. The consent of the Ministry is now being sought to extend this scheme to the parish of Sandhurst, the scheme having been approved by a Parish Meeting and the District Council. During the six months ending December 31st, 75 dustbins were provided at the request of the sanitary inspector: these were in addition to those already provided by owners without request.

The town of Cranbrook and the adjoining village of Sissinghurst are also scavenged. As the district is becoming increasingly residential, it is to be hoped that a complete refuse collection and disposal scheme will ultimately be developed.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE
Notifiable Diseases during the Year

	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	6	6	...
Diphtheria... ..	9	7	...
Pneumonia	15	2	4
Erysipelas	2	...	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	1	...
Ac. Anterior Poliomyelitis	2	2	...
	36	18	5

Scarlet Fever

Only 6 notifications were received during the year compared with 24 for the preceding year. The cases occurred in the following parishes: Goudhurst 4, Hawkhurst 1 and Cranbrook 1, and 5 were removed to the Cranbrook Joint Hospital and 1 to the Capel Isolation Hospital. The age-periods of the cases were :—

5-10

3

10-15

1

20-25

2

= 6.

Of the Goudhurst cases, 2 occurred in hop-pickers' children, 1 in a school child and 1 in an adult.

In the former cases, investigations were made at the hop farms by the

M.O.H. and the contacts examined and the growers advised to send them back to their homes, the respective M.O.H.'s being advised.

In one case it was found that another child of the family had been discharged from the Isolation Hospital after scarlet fever some months previously. To prevent the spread of any further infection the contacts were sent back home. Advice was received from the London M.O.H. three weeks later stating that another case had been notified to him and that the contacts were again returning to the hop-fields. Your M.O.H. again visited the farm and examined contacts, and arranged for their return.

The school case occurred during the Christmas holidays. The home contacts in this and an adjoining family who were suspected to have scarlet fever were visited by the Health Nurse and swabs taken for hæmolytic streptococci which all proved negative ; no history of sore throats or peeling was discovered.

The Hawkhurst case occurred in an adult male who was also suffering from diphtheria.

Diphtheria

A total of 9 cases was notified as compared with 8 for the previous year. They occurred in the following parishes : Cranbrook 4, Goudhurst 3, Hawkhurst 1 and Sandhurst 1. Seven of the cases were removed to the Cranbrook Isolation Hospital and 2 were treated at home. The age-periods of incidence were :—

$$\frac{5-10}{3} \quad \frac{10-15}{1} \quad \frac{15-20}{2} \quad \frac{20-30}{1} \quad \frac{30-40}{2} = 9.$$

The Cranbrook cases occurred 3 in adults and 1 in a hop-picker's child. Two of the former was treated at home by their own medical attendant.

One of the Goudhurst cases occurred in a school child. The boy, aged seven years, attended Winchet Hill School, which was visited by the Health Nurse, who examined 45 children and painted their throats with antiseptic solution on three successive days. Four swabs of contacts proved negative.

At the request of Dr. Galbraith, the M.O.H., Dr. Griffiths, the Assistant County Pathologist, arranged for all the 56 children at Winchet Hill School to be swabbed. Three of these proved to be positive ; they were excluded and taken home by the Health Nurse and admission to Cranbrook Hospital followed in two of the cases whose home address was Goudhurst, and the third child, whose home was Staplehurst, was removed to Loose Hospital. Both homes were visited by the M.O.H. and Nurse. The Goudhurst cottage was very isolated and dilapidated. Arrangements were made to move the family into a better house in the village. The Kent Education Committee was communicated with regarding the bad surface of the playground and the unsatisfactory provision for handwashing at Winchet Hill School ; both have been improved.

The Hawkhurst case occurred in a school girl aged seven years, which developed during the holidays.

One case notified in a female, aged eighteen years, occurred in a caravan on a

farm at Sandhurst. The patient was seriously ill with measles and suspected diphtheria and was removed to Capel Isolation Hospital as the Matron at Cranbrook Hospital did not wish to have a cross infection case. All the children in the caravan, which was overcrowded, were affected with measles. A second child was subsequently removed, very ill, to the Cranbrook Hospital, but proved not to have diphtheria, the swabs being negative. The M.O.H. visited and swabs of 9 contacts were taken, which proved negative. Their throats were painted with carbolic oil on three successive days. A man, wife and child, relatives of the former, occupied a tent on this farm, and a week later the woman was reported to have diphtheria and was removed to the Cranbrook Joint Hospital; the swabs proved negative and she was subsequently discharged. The medical practitioner was met by the M.O.H. in consultation regarding these cases. The M.O.H. and Inspector Smith also inspected.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis)

Two cases were reported from Benenden in children, aged eight and eleven years, both of the same family. They were admitted to the Cranbrook and Tenterden Joint Hospital.

On the instruction of the M.O.H., the Benenden School was visited by the Health Nurse on three occasions and all the children's throats were painted with 1 in 10 carbolic oil on three successive days. The school and cottage were inspected by the M.O.H. and Inspector. The well water at this cottage was sampled and found to be unsatisfactory, and the tenants were advised to boil the same. The above children visited the hop-garden and a family of London hop-pickers stayed at the above cottage during the hop season. The M.O.H. concerned was advised.

Following this primary outbreak of (acute anterior poliomyelitis) infantile paralysis, an outbreak of foot and mouth disease occurred amongst the cattle in the parish of Benenden. A similar sequence was noted in a previous outbreak in the parish of Frittenden.

Pneumonia

A total of 15 cases was notified, 10 in adults and 5 in children under fourteen years, 2 of the cases were treated in hospital and a total of 4 deaths occurred.

Erysipelas

Two cases were notified in adults, one of which proved fatal.

Puerperal Pyrexia

Two cases were notified, one being treated in Hospital.

Minor Infectious Diseases

Head teachers notified a total of 251 actual or suspected cases of infectious disease as follows : Measles 190, chicken-pox 42, impetigo 6, whooping cough 2, scabies 8, ringworm 2, and mumps 1.

Tuberculosis.

A total of 4 new cases was notified ; 7 deaths were registered.

Age-Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0-15 ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
35 ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
45	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	1
55	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	4	...	...	...	4	1	...	2
	4		...		5		2	

Details of the total number of cases on the Official Register are given for all of the Districts in the South-West Kent Section.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR
FOR 1938

Total number of Inspections made during the year	...	...	...	2,709
Re Overcrowding : Number investigated	...	...	...	4
Re Sanitary Accommodation : (i) Insufficient	...	...	...	} 43
(ii) Defective	...	...	...
Re Drainage : (i) Reconstructed	...	...	...	23
(ii) Repaired	...	...	...	19
(iii) Cleansed	...	...	...	43
Re Cesspools : (i) Abolished	...	...	...	9
(ii) Repaired	...	...	...	9
Re Refuse Receptacles	...	...	...	94
Re Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	4
Re Housing : Yard paving	...	...	...	11
Dampness	...	...	...	18
Roofs and Rainwater Pipes	...	...	...	13
Floors	...	...	...	12
Walls and Ceilings	...	...	...	17
Windows and Ventilation	...	...	...	12
Baths, Lavatory Basins and Sinks	...	...	...	5

<i>Re</i> Offensive Accumulations	1
<i>Re</i> Water Supplies	32
<i>Re</i> Hop-pickers' Camps	24
Miscellaneous	23
Number of statutory notices served under Public Health or Housing Acts	51
Number of informal notices given for sanitary and housing defects ...	231
Number of houses disinfected	22
Batches of clothing disinfected	6

Legal proceedings and results :—

Appeal by Mr. C. J. Banister against demolition order was dismissed. Prosecution of Mr. C. J. Banister for permitting occupation of house after demolition order became operative.—Successful.

Prosecution of Mr. A. Comfort under Building Byelaws on five counts.—All were successful.

Approximate amount of food condemned during the year, 1 ton 13 cwts. and 8 lbs.

Factories and Workshops, &c.

	No. in District	Visits	Defects	
			Found	Remedied
Bakehouses	14	11	4	1
Dairies	167	290	23	16
Slaughterhouses, registered ...	8	496	5	5
Slaughterhouses, licensed... ..	3			
Other food preparing places ...	8	8	...	...
Factories and Workshops ...	78	25	4	4

Inspection and Supervision of Food

(a) Milk Supply.—Routine inspections have been made and samples of milk have been collected as required by the County Council.

One dairyman was refused registration and one was struck off on the grounds that the premises were unsatisfactory.

(b) Meat and Other Foods.—Routine inspections are made under the Meat Regulations to all slaughterhouses and meat shops.

The following table shows the number of carcases inspected and condemned during the year :—

	Cattle, including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed, if known.	...	...	...	...
Number inspected... ..	417	236	1,575	937
All diseases, except tuberculosis :				
Whole carcases condemned ...	...	...	...	...
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	19	...	19	11
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	4.7	...	1.2	1.17
Tuberculosis only :				
Whole carcases condemned ...	2	...	...	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	17	...	...	14
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis... ..	4.2	...	...	1.7

Camping Sites

- (i) The number of sites in the area which were used for camping purposes during 1938

3
- (ii) The number of camping sites in respect of which licences have been issued by the local authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936

3
- (iii) The estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season, 1938

45

One application was made for a licence for a camping ground by a hop farmer following action by the Sanitary Inspector to stop the occupation of hop-pickers' huts during the winter months.—This licence was refused.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

No action was required to be taken during the year.

HOUSING

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses

- (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)

119
- Number of inspections made for that purpose

217

(2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under the preceding heading) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	36
Number of inspections made for that purpose	...	...	...	93
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	13
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	33

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	21
---	-----	-----	-----	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :				
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after the service of formal notices :				
(a) by owners	...	...	...	Nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	Nil
(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :				
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	34
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which such defects were remedied after service of formal notices :				
(a) by owners	...	...	...	34
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	Nil
(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :				
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	1
(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936...	...	...	...	Nil
(E) Overcrowding (Housing Act, 1936, Part IV.):				
(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	...	...	...	19
(2) Number of families dwelling therein...	...	...	...	19
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	152
(4) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year	...	...	...	4

(5) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year	...	4
(6) Number of persons concerned in such cases	... ..	29½
(7) Number of cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after action taken for the abatement of overcrowding	... ..	Nil
(8) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which it is considered desirable to report . . .		
There are numerous cases of families living in hop-pickers' huts which are overcrowded in every case.		

Several of existing cases will be abated shortly when adult daughters leave home for service. Great difficulty is to find houses sufficiently large to re-house overcrowded cases.

Shortage of housing accommodation for working classes :

(a) to replace unsatisfactory property	... ..	22
(b) to provide additional accommodation	... ..	47

Observations as to shortage or overcrowding :

There is a need for larger Council houses ; two of the larger Council houses are overcrowded, two of the smaller type are let to one family, and in a considerable number the re-housing standard is exceeded.



MAIDSTONE RURAL DISTRICT

1938 HEALTH REPORT

General Statistics

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34,709
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,317
Population (Registrar-General's estimate mid-year 1938)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,700
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£85,535
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£352
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,954

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year

					Total	Male	Female	
Live Births	{	Legitimate	...	...	241	124	117	
	{	Illegitimate	...	...	20	9	11	
					—	—	—	
					261	133	128	
					—	—	—	
Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16.6
Still-births	{	Legitimate	...	...	8	5	3	
	{	Illegitimate	...	...	1	1	0	
					—	—	—	
					9	6	3	
					—	—	—	
Stillbirth-rate per 1,000 of total (live and still) births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37.0
Deaths	...	...	...	...	201	98	103	
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12.8
Deaths from puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil</i>
Death-rate of infants under one year of age :—								
All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42.1
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41.5
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50.0
The actual number of infant deaths was	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Deaths from measles (all ages)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil</i>
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil</i>
Deaths from diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

Water Supplies

Mid-Kent Company. The following bacteriological report on a sample of water taken on July 20th, 1938, from the Trosley Pumping Station was received from the Mid-Kent Water Company. The analysis was undertaken by the Company's Analyst, Mr. Ed. Hinks. Mr. F. L. Ball, the Managing Director of the Company, reports that no action was taken in respect of contamination during 1938 ; all of this Company's pumping stations are fitted with chlorinating installations, which are in regular use.

NUMBER OF COLONIES DEVELOPING PER MILLILITRE OF WATER—

on agar in 2 days at 37° C.	...	0
on agar in 3 days at 22° C.	...	0

BACTERIA OF INDICATION—

B. coli	0	in 100 millilitres of water.
B. lactis aerogenes	...	...	...	...	0	do.
Streptococci	...	...	...	...	0	
B. welchii...	...	...	...	...	0	

OBSERVATIONS.—This sample shews no material alteration in chemical composition as compared with previous samples from this source. The water is of a high degree of organic purity and the bacteriological condition is excellent.

The following gives the increase in the number of houses supplied from the Company's main (including houses erected) during 1938 in Maidstone R.D. :—

	Increase.	Total.
Bearsted	63	648
Boughton Monchelsea	7	226
Hunton	1	185
Linton	40	235
Otham	4	90
Testen	9	133
Marden	11	615
Staplehurst	1	477
Yalding	4	556
	<hr/> 140 <hr/>	<hr/> 3,165 <hr/>

Maidstone Waterworks Company. The Engineer, Mr. Charles Harden, has kindly given permission for reproduction of the following notes on his Company's activities :—

“ The steady expansion in revenue has been accompanied by a corresponding increase in the demand for water. Year by year new peaks of consumption are reached. The total quantity consumed during 1938 was 615 million gallons, an increase of more than 28 million gallons over 1937. Of this increase 19 millions were accounted for by domestic consumers and 9 millions by trade consumers. During the past year we made 385 new connections to our mains, bringing the total number of effective supplies to nearly 15,300 and the total estimated number of consumers to over 56,000.

Reports on the frequent and regular analyses of our waters, from all sources of supply, show that the highest standard of purity has been maintained. The Works and Gathering Grounds are inspected periodically by the Directors, and by an eminent consultant bacteriologist, and the reports testify to the unremitting care and attention which they receive in the protection of the various sources of supply. The unfortunate typhoid outbreak at Croydon is no longer an item of news, but those of us who are charged with the responsibility of supplying the community with water can now regard the epidemic in its proper perspective, and profit by the lessons to be learnt from the subsequent inquiries. In this connection it might be mentioned that the Company have recently completed the purchase of a large tract of land adjoining our Cossington springs, so as to have complete control over the use to which that land is put. Steps have also been taken to secure control of lands adjoining other works of ours, to guard against occasional pollution which might occur without such control. Other measures which have been instituted are the increase in the number and frequency of our bacteriological analyses, and the medical examination of all our employees, engaged on constructional works, to prevent the unwitting spread of disease by a typhoid or other 'carrier.' We continue our close co-operation with the Medical Officers of Health for Maidstone and the surrounding parishes and they report favourably on the quality of the water, and the conditions under which it is collected, pumped and distributed to the consumer.

THE BOXLEY WORKS

The new works at Boxley Hill will be brought into full commission within the next few months. Those residents of Maidstone who have passed the site of the works recently cannot fail to have noticed the impressive building in which the pumping and other machinery is being housed. We have been at great pains to build a structure which is the most suitable for its purpose, but which at the same time does not detract from the amenities of the surrounding countryside. The Directors feel, now that the building is virtually completed, that the two-fold object has been achieved. As a precautionary measure, and to guard against any possible shortage last summer, part of the pumping plant was installed in June last, and has functioned very well indeed. We feel that, when the whole works are completed, and the site cleared of the contractors' plant, and *débris*, the station will be a worthy addition to the Company's assets and resources.

LINTON ROAD WATER TOWER

On the 16th of last month we brought into commission the new 100,000-gallon water tower at Linton Road, Loose, and this up-to-date structure, built at a cost of just over £3,000, is further evidence of the Company's activities, in our determination to fulfil our obligations to the consumers. It has been built really before the need has become acute, so that its true value may not be apparent to the local consumer, but it does provide us now with adequate storage in a section of our area of supply which was otherwise lacking in this respect."

Water Supply from Wells

(1) On March 23rd, 1938, at Longend Farm, Marden, Dr. Griffiths, Assistant County Bacteriologist, Dr. Galbraith, M.O.H., and Inspector Sedgwick made an inspection of the water supply and took samples. The source is an open pond at the bottom of the garden. At the time of our inspection the water was cloudy and there was much decaying vegetable growth in the water. Potential points of pollution near were the house drainage, which soaked into the garden, the privy and stable manure. This is the only supply not only for the farm but for the hop-pickers and other employees. A sample was also taken from the well at Longend Bungalow further along the road. Both samples were reported by Dr. Griffiths to be unsatisfactory. I condemned the sources and asked Inspector Sedgwick to get the owners to arrange with the Water Company to extend the main to their premises. Meantime the occupants were advised to boil all water before drinking.

(2) At the request of Dr. L. H. Taylor, of Loose, samples of water were taken from the wells at Wierton Place, Boughton Monchelsea, and submitted to bacteriological analysis. One sample was good and the other proved unsatisfactory.

Pollution of Streams and Rivers

(a) QUEEN STREET DITCH, PADDOCK WOOD.—Following receipt of a complaint, inspection was made on March 25th, 1938, of this old-standing statutory nuisance. Those present were Mrs. Hyatt-Woolf, Chairman of the Public Health Committee, and Inspector May of Tonbridge Rural District ; Inspector Sedgwick of Maidstone Rural District and the M.O.H. representing both Districts. Briefly sixteen houses in Tonbridge Rural District drain into a cess-pool and four houses in Maidstone Rural District drain into the ditch. When re-inspected on March 31st, 1938, and May 4th, 1938, the nuisance as far as Tonbridge Rural District was concerned was abated but in Maidstone Rural District the ditch was still very foul with sewage from the cottages only in that District. A good deal of rubbish was also in the ditch. I do recommend that the Council does give instructions that the nuisance is to be dealt with and abated.

(b) NETTLESTEAD COUNCIL HOUSES.—A complaint was received regarding the pollution of a ditch by sewage from the Council houses at Nettlestead. This was referred to Mr. Busbridge, Surveyor, and the nuisance has been abated.

Drainage and Sewerage

Mr. T. A. Busbridge, Surveyor to the Maidstone R.D.C., wrote in February, 1939, as follows :—

“ With regard to drainage and sewerage extensions carried out during the year.

The sewerage scheme for a portion of Barming and also a portion of the Borough of Maidstone has been completed and is working satisfactorily.

The scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal for the village of Yalding has been commenced and was well on the way of completion at the end of last year.

The scheme for extending the sewers and sewage disposal works at Bearsted and also the scheme for the sewerage and sewage disposal of parts of Loose, Linton and East Farleigh, have been prepared, and at the end of last year were in the hands of the Minister of Health for approval regarding a loan in connection therewith. Since then Public Inquiries have been held by the Minister regarding each, but the Minister's decision has not yet been communicated to my Council.

With regard to the Nettlestead and Watlingbury joint scheme for sewerage and disposing of the sewerage from parts of those parishes. My Council are waiting for particulars from the Malling Rural District Council, who we understand are preparing a scheme for Watlingbury, into which probably the drainage from the adjacent part of Nettlestead will be connected on terms to be settled between my Council and that Council.”

Refuse Collection

The Council now undertakes the weekly collection of refuse from seven of the fourteen parishes ; these are Bearsted, Loose, Barming, Boughton Monchelsea, East and West Farleigh, Linton and Otham.

Ministry of Health Public Inquiry

BEARSTED SEWAGE WORKS, DECEMBER 7th, 1938.

Evidence of the Medical Officer of Health.

The Inquiry was attended by the Clerk, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector of the Council.

The Inquiry was held by Mr. Gardner, one of His Britannic Majesty's Inspectors from the Ministry of Health.

“ Bearsted Parish is detached from the Maidstone Rural District by the Borough of Maidstone and is largely a suburb of the town. It has consequently grown very much in recent years, hence the necessity for the application by the Council of the Rural District of Maidstone to the Minister of Health for permission to raise a loan of £8,080 to extend the existing sewerage works.

The population in 1921 was 924 and in the 1931 Census 1,333, an increase of 409. Between the Census years, we Medical Officers of Health receive from the Registrar-General at Somerset House only the population statistics for the complete Rural Districts but not for the parishes. Judging by the building developments in Bearsted, I guess the population has probably increased by another 500 since 1931.

Bearsted, which is a healthy residential parish, has been pretty free of infectious diseases during the last ten years. There was an entire absence of typhoid fever, only 3 cases of diphtheria and 34 of scarlet fever. The high figure of 13 cases of scarlet fever in 1932 is accounted for by an epidemic totalling 12 cases in the St. Faith's Maternity Home.

TABLE SHOWING INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED, 1928-1937

Year			Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Encephalitis Lethargica
1928...	...	...	4	...	...	...
1929...	...	...	...	1	...	1
1930...	...	...	1	1	...	...
1931...	...	...	1	1	...	...
1932...	...	...	13	...	...	...
1933...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1934...	...	...	8	...	...	...
1935...	...	...	1	...	...	...
1936...	...	...	2	...	...	...
1937...	...	...	4	...	...	...
			34	3	...	1

The last Ministry of Health Inquiry held in connection with the Bearsted Sewerage Scheme was in 1930, when £20,750 was borrowed by the Council. Mr. Thos. A. Busbridge, Surveyor to the Maidstone Rural District Council, said in his report upon the scheme then, ‘ Enough land is to be purchased to enable the building to be extended further, but this will not be necessary for very many years yet.’ This shows how rapidly the village has grown in recent years.

As Medical Officer of Health, I do all I can to encourage the development of sewerage schemes, for I consider that modern houses fitted with baths, water closets and hand basins are greatly handicapped in their enjoyment and amenities where only cesspool drainage is available. As the need for this extension is urgent I have the greatest possible pleasure in supporting our Surveyor and Engineer in his work.”

Housing

(a) WEST FARLEIGH.—A complaint was received from Dr. Ponder, County M.O., regarding a bungalow occupied by Mr. Neve, on the Green, West Farleigh. The M.O.H. inspected on March 3rd, 1938, and found the complaint was fully justified. Inspector Sedgwick has served a notice on the owner, Mr. L. S. Fletcher, setting forth the repairs to be carried out.

(b) CORNWELL COTTAGES, MARDEN.—On March 25th, 1938, the M.O.H. and Inspector met Mrs. Everett, of Etchingham, who has purchased this condemned and dilapidated old timber dwelling with a view to restoring it to better than its original condition as a private dwelling house. She is doing the work thoroughly and it will be as pretty a picture as is Church Farm, Collier Street. She informed me that the old name was Combwell. "Coombe" is an old Gaelic name common throughout Britain and means a valley.



I am indebted to the owner of Marden Beech House, Henry Everett, Esq., Treasurer of the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings, and F. L. Mercer & Co., Estate Agents, Sackville House, 40 Piccadilly, for the loan of the block of the accompanying photograph. Great credit is due to Mr. and Mrs. Everett and their foreman, Mr. White-wood, Priors Heath, Bedgebury, for this remarkable work of restoration.

It was in, to even we Public Health Officials, a hopelessly derelict state, yet here it is restored to its cheerful condition of the Henry VIIIth period. The restoration took over twelve months. It was extensively underpinned and is now provided with air bricks, slate damp proof course and concrete under all the floors with modern sanitation, public water supply and electric light. It is dated 1550, actually the reign of King Edward VIth. Such work is of national importance to the tourist industry in maintaining the character of beautiful Britain.

It was supposed to be associated years ago with an old Priory of the same name at Goudhurst. Astrologers' Cottages was the quaint name of other derelict property near here, which was demolished. As will be seen from the photograph, Mrs. Everett has earned the gratitude of all lovers of beautiful old Britain by saving and restoring another of the gems of the Henry VIII period of architecture with which, unfortunately, I know the Housing Acts have played such havoc in Kent and elsewhere.

Ministry of Health Public Inquiry

Collier Street Churchyard Extension

On January 5th, 1938, at the Vicarage, Collier Street, an Inquiry was held by Mr. Gardner, His Majesty's Inspector from the Ministry of Health, into the application from the Vicar to use certain land of about a quarter of an acre, situate approximately 100 yards from St. Margaret's Church, on the south side of the road from Collier Street to Marden. At the request of the Clerk of the Council, the Medical Officer of Health attended and gave evidence. He was the only officer of the Council present at the Inquiry. The Vicar was not present as he was ill; the Churchwardens were represented by Mr. Finnis. We made an inspection of the orchard land in question, which is zoned in the Town Planning Scheme for burial purposes. Inspection pits were dug for examination of the soil. This is loamy, then ironstone and gravel below; there was water at the bottom of the pits. There is a good deal of subsoil water in this locality. Mrs. Stewart, who owns the adjoining property and who objected to the proposal, was interviewed. She has a well on her property but stated it was not used for drinking purposes, company water being laid on. A chemical analysis of a sample of the well was reported upon as follows :—

“ The organic quality of this water is fair, but the water contains a somewhat excessive amount of nitrogen as nitrates. I am of opinion that users should be advised to boil the water before drinking.”

The Ministry of Health has approved the extension of the cemetery.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE
Notifiable Diseases during the Year

	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet fever	24	23	...
Diphtheria	5	5	...
Pneumonia	8	1	...
Erysipelas	3	2	1
Puerperal pyrexia	3	3	...
Poliomyelitis	1	1	...
	44	35	1

Scarlet Fever

Medical practitioners notified 24 cases during 1938 as compared with 21 for the previous year. Twenty-three of the cases were admitted to the Loose Isolation Hospital and one was treated at home. Nine of the parishes in Maidstone Rural District had cases, which were as follows : Hunton 7, Marden 5, Staplehurst 4, Bearsted 3, and 1 each at Barming, Boughton Monchelsea, East Farleigh, Loose and Yalding. The age-periods of the cases were :—

4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—30	30—40	40 and over	
3	10	2	3	1	2	3	= 24

The Hunton cases occurred in 4 children attending school ; 2 adults and 1 child under school age. On the instructions of the M.O.H. the Health Nurse visited the school seven times in all and painted the children's throats with carbolic oil. Throat and ear swabs taken for hæmolytic streptococci proved negative. The Hunton School was visited twice by the M.O.H. and the headmaster, Mr. Churchill, conferred with.

The Marden cases occurred 4 amongst school-children and 1 in an adult. The Marden School was visited three times by the M.O.H. and Health Nurse and 193 contact children were inspected and a total of 289 throat treatments given. One child was excluded with sore throat and rise of temperature and the parents advised to consult their own doctor. One nasal and three throat swabs were taken ; all proved negative to the hæmolytic streptococci.

Two adults and two children were notified from Staplehurst, the latter being of the same family.

Diphtheria

Five cases were notified as compared with three for last year. They were admitted to the Loose Isolation Hospital. The cases occurred 2 at Marden and 1 each at Bearsted, Hunton and Yalding.

Both Marden cases occurred in boys attending Bethany House School, Goudhurst, where there had been a case.

The home contacts in the Bearsted and Hunton cases were visited by the Health Nurse, swabs taken and throat treatments given.

The Yalding child attended Paddock Wood School, where there had been other cases.

Special Report dated November 9th, 1938, on Infantile Paralysis (Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis) made by the Medical Officer of Health.

" On the morning of Monday, the 7th November, 1938, Dr. Collins, of Hollingbourne, telephoned me notifying the occurrence of infantile paralysis in a child, Eileen Waters, aged 5 years, of Oliver's Row, The Street, Bearsted.

I immediately got into telephonic communication with Mr. Sedgwick, Sanitary Inspector, and Mr. Thomas, the Council's Clerk, regarding the admission of the patient to hospital. I telephoned Dr. Grasby, the Chief Medical Officer of the County Hospital, Pembury, but he regretted that he was unable to admit the case in its infectious stage. I then suggested to the Clerk that he might get in touch with the Clerk of the Tonbridge Rural District Council, as I knew there was a ward already in use for this disease at the Capel Hospital. The child was consequently admitted to this hospital. After the period of infectivity was over, the patient was transferred to the West Kent Hospital for electrical treatment. Mr. Sedgwick and I made an inspection at the house and found that it was in an exceptionally clean condition. We also inspected Bearsted School ; as Medical Officer of Health I regret to have to report upon the very dirty condition of the premises attached to this school. The schoolrooms are light and airy but the floors did not appear to have been brushed or washed recently. The dirty condition of the cloakrooms and lavatories was deplorable. The floors had the appearance of not having been swept and certainly not washed for a week or more. The hand basin was in a dirty state. The closets are on the water carriage system but are of the objectionable trough type ; it was evident they also had not been cleaned for some time. The boys' urinal was choked up with dead leaves and it was evident the boys had been using the seats to stand on ; they also had not been cleansed for a long period.

Half of the space of the playground is taken up with a garden and there are many odd corrugated iron sheds about. The surface of the playground is very uneven; it would be impossible for small children to play on it without frequently stumbling.

I lodged the above complaints at once with the headmaster, who was recently appointed, and asked him to convey the same to the Vicar as soon as possible, and I informed him that I would be reporting upon the matter to the Maidstone Rural District Council.

With a view of taking every possible precaution to prevent the spread of infection amongst the children and with the approval of the Clerk and the headmaster, I arranged for the Health Nurse to visit the school on two days and paint all the children's throats with anti-septic. I subsequently learned that the patient and her brother attended Thurnham School nearby, in Hollingbourne Rural District. The information was conveyed at once by telephone to Dr. Gaffikin, the Medical Officer of Health to Hollingbourne Rural District Council.

This is the sixth case which has occurred in the S.W. Kent United Health Area since hop-picking. It is another instance of the frequent aftermath of infectious disease following on hop-picking. As may be noted in the special report on hop-picking, many contacts to this infectious disease, acute anterior poliomyelitis, were found and sent back to London."

Pneumonia

Four of the cases occurred in children under five years and 4 in adults, one of the latter being treated in the West Kent Hospital, Maidstone.

Erysipelas

The cases occurred in adults, two were nursed in Institutions and one proved fatal.

Puerperal Pyrexia

Two cases occurred at the St. Faith's Home, Bearsted, and a third was treated at the County Hospital, Pembury.

Minor Infectious Diseases

Head Teachers notified a total of 110 actual or suspected cases of minor infectious diseases as follows : Chicken-pox 61, impetigo 28, whooping cough 6, measles 7, mumps 3, conjunctivitis (pink-eye) 2, ringworm 1, tonsillitis 2.

Tuberculosis

A total of 21 new cases were notified ; 10 deaths were registered.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
5 	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
15 	3	2	...	1	...	1	...	...
25 	2	1	...	...	2	...	...	...
35 	1	2	1	...	...	1	...	...
45 	2	2	...	...	1	1	...	...
55 	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
	10	8	2	1	5	5	...	...
	18		3		10		...	

Details of the total number of cases on the official register at the office of the Medical Officer of Health for the Maidstone Rural District are given in the South-West Kent Area section of the report.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR 1938

Nuisances Investigated under Public Health Act, 1936

Written complaints received and investigated	...	...	...	...	62
<i>Re</i> keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	2
<i>Re</i> offensive trades	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil</i>
Sanitary arrangements for conversion	...	...	...	...	12
<i>Re</i> dustbins. Number investigated	...	...	...	...	30
<i>Re</i> drains. Number investigated	...	...	...	...	428
Notices served—Statutory	...	...	...	...	32
Notices served—Informal	...	...	...	...	112
Number of houses disinfected	...	...	...	...	35
Number of lots of clothing disinfected	...	...	...	...	40
Approximate total amount of food condemned during the year:					3 tons 11 cwt. 1 qr. 24 lbs.
Legal proceedings	...	...	...	...	1

Water Supply

Number of inspections <i>re</i> existing water supply	...	...	...	...	117
Samples taken and submitted for analysis...	...	...	...	...	25

Housing

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	364
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	488
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	50
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	164
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	21
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	42

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	39
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—

(A) Proceedings under sections 9 and 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repair	...	...	...	...	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—					
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil</i>
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil</i>

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil</i>
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil</i>
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil</i>
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil</i>

(C) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil</i>
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	11

(D) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil</i>
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil</i>

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936. PART IV. OVERCROWDING.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
(b) Number of cases of overcrowding reported during year	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil</i>
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil</i>
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding : There have been no cases of this.							

Housing (Rural Workers) Act

Number of houses reconditioned under this Act during the year	12
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Hop-picking Inspection

Number of encampments inspected...	170
Number of visits to camps	480
Number of hopper huts inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,048
Number of tents inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Number of gipsy vans inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
Number of latrines inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,134
Number of cookhouses inspected	496

Hospital Inspection

Number of visits	18
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Factories and Workshops	Number	Visits	Found	
			Defects	Remedied
Bakehouses	14	22	4	4
Dairies and cowsheds...	109	204	21	21
Slaughter-houses	21	447	2	2
Meat shops	23	25	4	4
Factories and workshops	102	87	3	3
Knacker's yard	1	40	...	...

Shops Act, 1934, Section 10

Eighty-seven inspections have been made during the year.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act

Twenty-five visits have been made under this Order, and advice given when required.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

Six houses were found to be infested and in each case the Sanitary Inspector sprayed with Zaldecide, with good results.

Council houses are inspected from time to time, to ensure that they are free from vermin.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

(a) MILK SUPPLY.—Routine inspections have been made, and samples of milk have been collected as required by the County Council.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—Routine inspections under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, are carried out in all slaughter-houses and meat shops.

Inspections are also made during the hop-picking season of all meat and other foods which are sold by hawkers from temporary vans and stalls.

Proceedings were taken in the Maidstone Petty Sessional Court against a purveyor of meat, exposing unfit meat. He was fined £5.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed if known ...	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>
Number inspected... ..	937	182	98	1,032	1,008
Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	...	...	...
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	5	2	1	9	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	0·5%	1·1%	1%	0·87%	0·49%
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	13	...	...	...
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	8	17	...	...	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0·96%	16·4%	...	...	0·3%

Inspection of Schools

There are seventeen schools in the District, all of which were inspected during the year. All schools have the public water supply.

Camping Sites

There are two camping sites in the district. Licenses have been granted in each case.

Swimming Baths and Pools

There are no swimming baths or pools in the District.

Refuse Collection

Refuse collection is now undertaken by the Council in seven of their fourteen parishes.

1938 HEALTH REPORT

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SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

Water Supplies

The Cranbrook and Mid-Kent Water Companies supply practically all of the District and copies of reports on analysis of their supplies are given in the Cranbrook and Maidstone Rural sections of this report.

Water Supply of Wittersham and Stone

A report dated January 17th, 1938, from the County Bacteriologist upon a sample of water taken from the collecting tank at the Wittersham Waterworks on January 10th, 1938, showed the supply to be unsatisfactory. Dr. Louis L. Griffiths remarks are as follows :—

“ *Bacillus coli* (presumptive) present in 20 c.c. Absent in 10 c.c. Further tests showed that these organisms were not typical *B. coli*. No evidence of recent faecal pollution, but the high counts make this water unsatisfactory.”

On January 18th, 1938, the M.O.H. wrote Mr. Banfield, the Clerk, as follows :—

“ In view of the unsatisfactory report, I recommend the Tenterden Rural District Council to instal a chlorinating apparatus at these works.”

As it was going to take some weeks to instal this apparatus, the M.O.H. telegraphed the Clerk on January 21st, 1938 :—

“ Please send notice to each household taking Wittersham water supply to boil same before drinking. Kindly confirm when done.”

Mr. Banfield issued the notice on the same date. Dr. Constant Ponder wrote dated January 27th, 1938 :—

“ I enclose herewith copies of reports on the examination of the three specimens of water collected by Dr. Jones from the Tenterden Rural District on 20th inst. (20/1/38).

While this water supply cannot be regarded as satisfactory, there is no evidence of faecal pollution, but the high bacterial counts make it rather suspicious. The bacteria appear to be soil organisms, but their presence in such large numbers shows that the water has a high organic content, and necessitates careful supervision.

I would suggest the following recommendations in the first place :—

1. A fortnightly bacteriological examination to determine whether or not the quality varies considerably from time to time.
2. An inspection of the collecting chamber to ascertain whether it is clean and free from cracks, etc.
3. Piping of the water in the ditch in the neighbourhood of the pumping station.
4. The erection of a suitable latrine for the workmen employed at the station.
5. Examination of the water flowing in the ditch.”

Mr. Banfield wrote to the M.O.H. dated January 29th, 1938 :—

“ It is noted that the recommendations of the County M.O. do not include or mention chlorination.

In the meantime and having regard to the County Medical Officer's recommendations (a) fortnightly bacteriological examinations will be made, (b) the collecting chambers will separately be emptied, cleaned, and an inspection made for cracks, etc., (c) the question of a suitable latrine for the workmen gone into, (d) the water flowing into the ditch submitted for analysis. The piping of the water in the ditch in the neighbourhood of the pumping station will be considered by the Committee shortly ; it would, however, be a matter of enormous expense.

Meantime, as you are aware, the consumers, upon your advice, have been requested to boil all water before drinking.

It is noteworthy here to record that following the decision of the Committee on 3rd February, to instal a solution feed chlorinator at a cost of about £170, such apparatus was installed and working by noon of the 5th February.”

The M.O.H. wrote the Clerk on February 4th, 1938 as follows :—

“ I am pleased to note that the Committee have decided to have the chlorinating apparatus installed forthwith.

With reference to my telephone message of yesterday afternoon, I have considered the matter and I am of the opinion that the Committee would be well advised to open negotiations with the Cranbrook or Mid-Kent Water Companies. The pipes can be laid on to Wittersham at leisure so that the bulk supply can be turned on at a moment's notice in any future emergency, such as drought or breakdown of machinery at the Wittersham Waterworks.”

The following is an extract from the Minutes of a meeting of the Wittersham and Stone-cum-Ebony Water Supply Committee of the Tenterden Rural District Council held at Wittersham Court, Wittersham, on November 10th, 1938 :—

STREAM NEAR WORKS.

The following chemical report by the Public Analyst upon water from stream close to Wittersham Water Works, dated 27th October, was produced :

“ This water is of very bad organic quality and it shows evidence of the presence of animal organic matter. This water must on no account be allowed access to a public supply.”

The Members of your Committee had previous to its meeting visited the works and inspected the stream, etc., in question.

As a consequence of such inspection your Committee reports that as regards the water from the stream in question, it is satisfied that there is no possibility of access to the public supply and all necessary precautions have been taken.

It may here be stated that the above stream has been diverted by works carried out by the Committee in 1939.

Drainage and Sewerage

BIDDENDEN : PROPOSED DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE DISPOSAL SCHEME

Recent Correspondence with Kent County Council.

The Clerk produced further correspondence from the Kent County Council making enquiries as to what action is being taken to prevent the pollution of Hammer Mill Stream, etc.

Report of Acting Surveyor.

The attached report of the Acting Surveyor, previously circulated to Members, was considered in detail. The total costs involved will be seen to be in the region of £850. As these would only be partial works, an application for loan sanction could not be made to the Ministry.

The Clerk doubted whether the District Auditor would allow expenditure to this amount being held in suspense (for recovery from the Parish under Special Rates) for any useful period. A grant could only be obtained from the County Council towards Loan Charges, to which the District Council similarly had heretofore only contributed.

Upon enquiry, the Acting Surveyor confirmed that a comprehensive scheme appeared to be the only alternative.

Your Committee, upon thorough review of the position, came to the conclusion that even were it possible to deal satisfactorily for a short time with the outfalls by treatment, as referred to in the Surveyor's Report, other points between Curteis Corner and the Rose Inn, which are not sewered, might still demand attention. Further, such temporary measures would be redundant when the village is sewered.

Your Committee therefore unanimously but regretfully came to the conclusion that in order to deal effectually with the drainage of the village, to which the Council's attention has been drawn by the County Council owing to stream pollution, there is no alternative but to carry out a comprehensive sewerage scheme for the village. To this end the Committee recommend professional advice be obtained.

BIDDENDEN DRAINAGE

To the Chairman and Members, Tenterden Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with your instructions I have surveyed that part of Biddenden Village which is at present sewered, and I have obtained the following particulars of existing drainage :—

The High Street and a portion of North Street have public sewers which discharge into a stream, known as Clay Bridge Stream, and which is situated at the rear of the Parish Church.

As there is no sort of treatment of the sewage before discharge into the stream the effluent must be regarded as crude sewage.

This effluent eventually empties into the Hammer Stream and is, in my opinion, the principal cause of the pollution of that stream and which has given cause for complaint from the Kent County Council.

The sewage from Chulkhurst Cottages also empties into the Clay Bridge Stream at a point nearly opposite the above outfall.

The Clay Bridge Stream also receives sewage from several large houses on the Tenterden Road.

As the Clay Bridge Stream is the natural surface drainage for the area of land on the West of Biddenden-Maidstone Road from a point near Dashmonden to a point near Newcastle Corner, and also for the area to the North of the Biddenden-Sissinghurst road from a point near Worsenden, it would appear that this stream must eventually collect all the domestic sewage effluents from houses erected within these areas.

This would point to the necessity of a comprehensive Sewage Scheme for the whole of the areas mentioned and with Treatment Works situated at the rear of Mansion House.

This would entail a considerable outlay.

As the principal cause of the pollution of the stream is the outfall taking the centre of the village, this could be dealt with by the provision of Treatment Works constructed in field Plot No. 459 and requiring about half acre of land with access thereto for vehicles.

The drainage from Chulkhurst Cottages would have to enter a collecting tank on the West side of the Clay Bridge Stream and be raised by means of an automatic sewage pump and passed through the works.

The Treatment Works would consist of Screen Chamber, Settlement Tanks, Filters and Humus Tanks with earth beds for drying out sludge.

The population of this part of the village to be dealt with is approximately 150, which, based on a possible usage of 35 gallons of water per head per day gives a dry weather flow of 5,250 gallons in twenty-four hours and the works would be designed to deal with this amount.

The estimated cost of this work is detailed as under :—

	£	s.	d.
Treatment works, including automatic sprinklers, valves, etc,	420	0	0
Alterations to existing sewers... ..	60	0	0
Collecting tank and electrically operated sewage pump to deal with sewage from Chulkhurst Cottages	160	0	0
Electrical power to same	20	0	0
Land and fences	40	0	0
Legal charges	10	0	0
Incidentals	70	0	0
	£780	0	0

I would point out, however, that if this work is carried out it will not deal with the sewage on the Maidstone Road beyond the Rose Inn, and it appears that the existing sewers cannot be extended in this direction owing to the slight fall of the ground and the shallow depth of the existing sewers.

In addition to the above work Worsenden Cottages would have to be treated by means of an independent treatment works situated at the rear of the cottages at an estimated cost of £65.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) G. L. TURNER,
Acting Surveyor.

“ Hillside,” Tenterden.
October 28th, 1938.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE
Notifiable Diseases during the Year

	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet fever	4	4	...
Pneumonia	1	...	1
	5	4	1

Scarlet Fever

Four cases were notified during the year, all being removed to the Cranbrook Joint Hospital. Three of the cases occurred at Biddenden and 1 at Woodchurch.

The Biddenden cases occurred :—one in a school child, aged thirteen years, one in a married woman, and the third in a school teacher. The contacts were examined and two of the latter’s children were found to be peeling and were removed to Cranbrook Hospital ; throat swabs taken by the Health Nurse for hæmolytic streptococci proved negative. The Biddenden School was visited on two occasions ; in the first instance, following the notification of the school child, the Medical Officer of Health and Health Nurse examined 116 children and treated 56 for sore throats. Two children were excluded, one with peeling hands and the other with sore throat, the former was admitted to hospital. Swabs were taken of three children, one of whom had recently recovered from scarlet fever ; one swab yielded a few hæmolytic streptococci and the other two were negative. Six homes were visited by the M.O.H. and Health Nurse and contacts examined. The second visit was following the notification of the school teacher, when the Health Nurse inspected and treated with carbolic oil 100 children ; six swabs taken for hæmolytic streptococci proved negative. Disinfection of the school was carried out by the Sanitary Inspector.

The infection at Biddenden must have been of a virulent type because after these examinations of the school children and contacts, the M.O.H. himself developed a sore throat and tonsillitis, from which he suffered for several weeks, and had to undergo a partial tonsillectomy.

The Woodchurch case occurred in a boy, aged twelve years, during the summer holidays, part of which he had spent at Brixton, from where it is possible he brought the infection.

One case was notified from Woodchurch of the influenzal type, which proved fatal.

Head teachers notified a total of 136 cases of actual or suspected minor infectious diseases as follows : Measles 122, chicken-pox 11, whooping cough 1, impetigo 2.

Seven new cases were notified ; two deaths were registered.

Age Periods			NEW CASES				DEATHS			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
25	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
35	...	...	1	2	1	...	...	...	...
45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
65 and upwards			...	...	...	...	...	...	...
			1	3	2	1	—	1	— 1	
Total	...		4		3		1		1	

Summary of Inspections

[illegible]

Factories and Workshops, &c.

	No. in District	Visits	Defects	
			Found	Remedied
Bakehouses	9	40	2	2
Dairies	76	152	6	6
Slaughterhouses, Registered	7	30	1	1
Factories	1	1	4	—

Housing

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 31
Number of inspections made for that purpose 40

(2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under the preceding heading) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932... .. 31
Number of inspections made for that purpose 40

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation Nil

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 8
2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices. Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers... .. 8
3. Action under Statutory Powers.

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 Nil

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts Nil

(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 Nil

(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... Nil

(E) Overcrowding (Housing Act, 1936, Part IV.).

(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year ... 4

(2) Number of families dwelling therein 4

TONBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT
1938 HEALTH REPORT

General Statistics								
Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41,687
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18,063
Population (Registrar-General's estimate mid-year 1938)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19,240
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£133,683
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£535
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to Rate Books...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,520

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year

					Total	Male	Female	
Live Births	{	Legitimate	...	...	227	126	101	
		Illegitimate	...	...	16	11	5	
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
					243	137	106	
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 12.6								
Still-births	{	Legitimate	...	...	7	3	4	
		Illegitimate	...	...	1	1	—	
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
					8	4	4	
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
Stillbirth-rate per 1,000 of total (live and still) births 31.8								
Deaths	...	...	...	...	232	131	101	
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 12.1								
Deaths from puerperal causes :—								
					Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births		
Puerperal sepsis			...	...	1	3.9		
Other puerperal causes			...	...	1	3.9		
					<hr/>	<hr/>		
					2	7.8		
					<hr/>	<hr/>		
Death-rate of infants under one year of age :—								
All infants per 1,000 live births					...	...	...	49.4
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births...					...	...	...	52.9
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births					...	...	...	00.0
The actual number of infant deaths was :					...	...	...	12
Deaths from cancer (all ages)					...	...	...	34
Deaths from measles (all ages)...					...	...	...	1
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)					...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from diarrhoea (under two years of age)					...	...	...	1

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT**Water Supplies**

The various parishes of the District are supplied by the South Kent Water Company, the Tonbridge Water Company, Southborough Urban District Council, and Tunbridge Wells Corporation. The largest supplier is the South Kent Water Company; the whole of the water supplied in the South Kent Area is obtained under contract from the Mid-Kent Company. The following figures show the increase in the number of houses supplied from the latter Company's mains (including houses erected) during 1938 in the parishes of Tonbridge Rural District :—

					Increase.	Total Supplied.
Brenchley	...	...	...	...	—	382
Matfield	...	...	...	...	6	269
Paddock Wood	...	...	...	...	7	542
Capel (F.O.G.)	...	...	...	...	10	246
Hadlow	...	...	...	...	4	440
Horsmonden	...	...	...	...	3	369
Pembury	...	...	...	...	4	568
Lamberhurst	...	...	less	...	3	367
					—	—
					37	3,183
					—	—

A copy of a report on an analysis of this Company's water will be found under the Maidstone R.D. section of this report.

A complaint was received from Paddock Wood that the water was very brown and that when boiled the brown rust rises to the surface and is rendered very unpalatable. This complaint was passed on to the South Kent Water Company for necessary action.

Water Supply to the County Hospital, Pembury

The following letter, dated February 25th, 1938, was sent by the M.O.H. to the Secretary, Ministry of Health, to the Kent County Clerk, Town Clerk of Tunbridge Wells, and the Clerk of Tonbridge Rural District Council :—

“ My attention has been drawn to the fact that an Inquiry was held on Tuesday the 22nd February, 1938, by Mr. J. Gardner, an Inspector of the Ministry of Health, at the County Hospital, Pembury, into an application for a loan to sink a well within the grounds of the Hospital to supply the whole Institution with water.

This hospital is within the Tonbridge Rural District for which I am Medical Officer of Health.

Arising out of a letter of complaint, I made an inspection with Colonel Frank Harris, Consulting Engineer to the Hospital, and Dr. Churchill Linton, Medical Officer of Health to Tunbridge Wells, of the sewage works in the hospital grounds on Saturday the 19th February.

The complainant writes, dated 15/2/38 :—

‘ Have you inspected the water works down Pembury Walks, belonging to the Tunbridge Wells Council ? If not, I shall be pleased to show you this week-end what I consider to be most dangerous, *i.e.*, the drain from the Poor Law Institution runs down towards these water works and apparently goes right under the reservoir.

‘ Any fault in the brickwork would surely give risk to contamination and possibly an epidemic.’

I telephoned Dr. Linton on 16/2/38 and sent him a copy of the letter on the same date. At our inspection Dr. Linton expressed the opinion that there was no risk of contamination to the Tunbridge Wells Corporation reservoir.

Col. Harris pointed out to us the site by the main road where he proposes to sink the deep well referred to in the Inquiry.

As Medical Officer of Health, I desire to point out to Mr. Gardner, His Majesty's Inspector, that the potential sources of pollution and infection of any well in this neighbourhood are :—

- (a) The sewage works which take all the sewage from the hospital.
- (b) The refuse dump where all the hospital refuse is deposited, and which is not properly controlled.
- (c) On the steep bank of the stream opposite the site of the proposed well are several villas, all of which have cesspool drainage.
- (d) The surface drainage from the main Hastings road.
- (e) The manuring of the large gardens attached to the hospital.
- (f) Any pollution which might reach the stream above the site of the hospital."

It is understood that the Kent County Council has now decided not to proceed with the proposal to sink a well because the Tunbridge Wells Corporation Water Committee which supplies the County Hospital, Pembury, has agreed to revise its terms for a bulk supply of water. As noted above, one of the Corporation's sources of supply is quite near to the hospital.

Rivers Pollution

(a) Queen Street Ditch, Paddock Wood

With Mrs. Hyatt-Woolf, Chairman of the Committee, Inspector May of Tonbridge R.D., and Inspector Sedgwick of Maidstone R.D., the M.O.H. acting for both Districts, made an inspection of this old-standing statutory nuisance. The Surveyor, Mr. Miller, has made an attempt to cure the same as far as Tonbridge R.D. only is concerned, but this was rendered ineffective through a field plough smashing the sewer. It seems to me to be a case where the two Surveyors for the adjoining Districts should prepare a small joint sewerage scheme to deal with this hamlet. The ditch is in a very foul state at present and has been so for many years.

(b) Pollution of Somerhill Stream

Superintendent Pollington, Tonbridge Division of the Kent County Constabulary, lodged a copy of a report dated March 25th, 1938, as follows :—

" I respectfully beg to report with reference to the outbreak of anthrax at Postern Park Meadow, owned and occupied by J. A. Buggs & Sons, of Church Farm, Capel, that this meadow is divided by a stream which flows from a point near Tunbridge Wells Sewage Works *viâ* Somerhill Estate, Castle Hill and Priory Mill. Sewerage is frequently noticed floating on the water at Postern Park Meadow.

The cattle grazing in this meadow have access to and drink from this stream. On the northern side of the stream, the meadow was quite recently treated with bone meal manure. Whilst the southern portion was treated with basic slag.

Upon inquiry by Dr. Galbraith, Medical Officer of Health for Tonbridge Area, upon whom a copy of Form A was served, the above facts were communicated to him.

This meadow has been owned by Messrs. Buggs & Sons for the last twenty years, and there is no known history of anthrax having existed in cattle grazing in this meadow."

Dr. Galbraith replied, dated March 30th, 1938, as follows :—

“ I thank you for yours of 28/3/38 enclosing a report upon the outbreak of anthrax at Postern Park Meadow owned by Messrs. J. A. Buggs & Sons, of Church Farm, Capel.

I have sent a copy of the report to Mr. Lee, Clerk to the Tonbridge Rural District Council, and the necessary action will be taken.

On Monday the 28th instant I was instructed by the Clerk of the Southborough Urban District to attend a Conference of Representatives of that Council, Tunbridge Wells Corporation and the Kent County Council. An inspection was made of all potential points of pollution of the stream from High Brooms down to Moat Farm. Samples of the stream were taken for analysis both by Mr. Arnaud, the County Chemical Analyst, and Dr. E. R. Jones, the County Bacteriological Analyst.”

Housing

The following inspections of property were made :—

(1) At Horsmonden on February 2nd, 1938, the Rev. Smith-Marriott, his solicitor, Mr. Murton-Neale, and Mr. Woodgate, builder, met the M.O.H. and Inspector. Most of the cottage property of the Smith-Marriott Estate was gone over in detail and the necessary improvements and repairs agreed upon.

(2) At Capel and Horsmonden on February 28th, 1938, Councillors Mrs. Hyatt-Woolf, Bridges and Field, with the M.O.H. and Inspector, inspected the following properties : The Alders, Capel ; Tollgate Cottages, Doghouse, Brick Cottage, Cock Lane Cottages, Tanyard Cottages, The Warren and Pond Farm Cottages, all in the parish of Horsmonden.

(3) At Five Oak Green on March 31st, 1938, the M.O.H. and Inspector went over Tully's Row. We decided to recommend to the Committee the demolition of seven out of the eight cottages.

At Paddock Wood, Inspector May showed me certain cottages at Mount Pleasant which he has been able to persuade the owners to recondition. It is excellent and creditable work.

New Cemetery, Pembury

With Mr. W. N. Miller, Surveyor, and Mr. Gower, Parish Clerk, the M.O.H. on January 4th, 1938, inspected the site of the proposed new cemetery. We are of opinion that the location of the cemetery is not likely to affect the catchment area of the Tunbridge Wells Corporation Water Supply. I advised Dr. Linton, M.O.H. of Tunbridge Wells accordingly, and suggested he should inspect the site in confirmation.

Proposed Mortuary

Dated February 19th, 1938, Mr. Halberson, Clerk to Brenchley Parish Council, wrote pointing out that there is no mortuary for the area under the jurisdiction of His Majesty's Coroner for Cranbrook, which includes Brenchley, and asked my views as Medical Officer of Health. This district is an extensive one, extending to Stone-in-Oxney and to Little Chart, north of Ashford. I agreed with Major Clarke that it is a matter for the Kent County Council. Existing hospital mortuaries could be made use of.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE
Notifiable Diseases during the Year

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet fever	25	25	...
Diphtheria	37	37	1
Enteric fever	2	1	...
Pneumonia	11	4	...
Erysipelas... ..	3	...	...
Puerperal pyrexia	3	3	...
Anthrax	1	1	...
Dysentery... ..	6	4	...
Poliomyelitis	1	1	...
	89	76	1

Scarlet Fever

A total of 25 notifications of this disease were received from medical practitioners during the year as compared with 29 for the previous year. All the cases were treated at the Capel Isolation Hospital and occurred in the following parishes : Pembury (village) 5, Pembury (hospital) 2, Five Oak Green 4, Hadlow 4, Speldhurst 2, Horsmonden 2, Bidborough 2, Hildenborough 1, Paddock Wood 1, Tudeley 1, and Langton 1. The age-periods of incidence were :—

2—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—30	30—40	
3	10	3	1	5	3	= 25

Of the Pembury village cases 2 occurred in the same family of father and child, who were in the “ peeling ” stage of the disease. It was discovered on visiting the contacts that another child who had been discharged from the County Hospital, Pembury, four weeks previously, following the removal of his tonsils, was desquamating ; a report from the Medical Officer of the hospital stated that the boy had had a “ surgical rash ” which condition was not due to scarlet fever.

The Pembury Hospital cases occurred, one of an inmate, a boy aged seven years, and the other was a puerperal scarlet fever, a woman aged twenty-one, who gave birth to a stillborn child. Two other cases which were notified as diphtheria as well as scarlet fever are reported upon under the former heading.

Of the Five Oak Green cases, 3 were of school-children, two in the same family, and one adult.

Two of the Hadlow cases occurred in a family where there had been 2 cases at the end of the previous year, one of which was a boy on leave from the Navy.

One of the Horsmonden cases occurred in a child aged seven years, who also had measles, and the other was an adult male who was employed at an apple-packing factory in Marden (Maidstone Rural District). The M.O.H. visited

the factory accompanied by the Health Nurse, and examined the immediate contacts. The factory is ideal in all respects, every provision being made and attention given to the welfare and comfort of the workers. The case of infectious disease developed from personal contact outside.

Diphtheria

A total of 37 cases were notified during the year with 1 death. This was a slight increase over the previous year, which totalled 33 cases with 2 deaths. The parishes concerned were as follows : Pembury (village) 8, Pembury (County Hospital) 10, Paddock Wood 6, Horsmonden 4, Capel, Five Oak Green and Hildenborough each 2, and Brenchley, Golden Green and Matfield each 1. Six bacteriological cases are not included in the above. The age-periods of incidence were as follows :—

0—1	1—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—30	30—40	
<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	= 37

Of the Pembury cases, one occurred in a family where it was found by examination of the contacts that a boy on leave from a naval training establishment had a suspicious nasal discharge ; swabs were taken and that of the boy proved positive, and he was removed to Capel Hospital ; another case occurred about ten days later and was admitted to hospital.

Several of the cases occurred in school-children and the Pembury School was visited by the Health Nurse. Sixty children were examined and 26 throat treatments given. Two swabs were taken, both proved negative.

With the exception of 2 cases, all the diphtheria cases from the County Hospital, Pembury, occurred in the first quarter of the year, 4 were nasal diphtheria, 2 being infants under one year. Two children who had been transferred from Pembury Hospital to Capel Hospital suffering with scarlet fever were found on admission to be also suffering from diphtheria ; 1 child from Chatham was seriously ill and died three days later. A bacteriological “carrier” found by the Medical Officer of the Hospital was removed to Capel Hospital.

Five of the Paddock Wood cases attended school and the outbreak was spread over two months. The M.O.H. visited the school and examined contacts and took swabs of three children, one of which proved positive ; the child was admitted to Capel Isolation Hospital. Following the occurrence of further cases the M.O.H. directed the Health Nurse to visit the school and paint the children’s throats ; a total of 308 children were inspected and 272 throat treatments given. Of 5 swabs taken, 1 proved positive, the child was treated daily at home until 3 consecutive negative swabs were obtained.

Three of the Horsmonden cases occurred in the same family, of mother and two children. Some difficulty arose in dealing with the twin babies of the above, and following two negative nasal and throat swabs arrangements were made for them to be admitted to the County Hospital, Pembury. The Horsmonden School was visited by the Health Nurse and 50 children inspected.

Both Capel cases were of hop-pickers’ children, the contacts returning home to London ; the respective M.O.H.’s were advised.

One of the Five Oak Green cases was of a girl, aged fourteen years, who was employed as a temporary maid at the Capel Isolation Hospital. She was swabbed as a precautionary measure at the Tunbridge Wells General Hospital, which proved to be positive though the patient appeared perfectly well ; she was admitted to the diphtheria ward for treatment.

Both Hildenborough cases occurred in the same family, the second occurring twelve days after the discharge from hospital of the first case.

Enteric Fever

Two cases of the typhoid group fevers were notified, the first in a boy aged six years, from Capel, who was admitted to the Isolation Hospital. A sample of the water analysed proved satisfactory. The second case occurred of an adult female who was treated at home. The M.O.H. visited in consultation with the medical practitioner in attendance. Enquiries were made and the fact elicited that the patient had consumed oysters at two London restaurants ; the L.C.C. Medical Officer was advised. Samples of both milk and water were sent to the Kent County Laboratories for analysis by the Sanitary Inspector, which were reported to be satisfactory.

Pneumonia

Of the cases notified, 4 were treated at the Capel Isolation Hospital, three were complicated with measles and the fourth child had been transferred from the County Hospital, Pembury, suspected to be suffering from diphtheria ; negative swabs were obtained, the child had double pneumonia and was too ill to be returned. Of the five adults, one died.

Erysipelas

Two cases occurred in adults and one in a child aged five years, a hop-picker who was treated at the dispensary.

Puerperal Pyrexia

Three cases were notified from the County Hospital, Pembury.

Anthrax

A case of anthrax occurred in a male, aged twenty-four years, on a farm at Horsmonden. He was employed in the capacity of agricultural labourer, but had no work in connection with animals. The man cut his neck whilst shaving and showed no signs of the infection until three days later, when he was removed to the County Hospital suffering from pustular anthrax. His shaving brush and a sample of bone manure used in connection with the crops were sent to the County Laboratory for examination, these being reported on as follows : "B. anthracis not found." The man recovered and was discharged from hospital. It would be safer for farm workers who have to handle bone manure to grow their beards.

Dysentery

Six cases were reported, 4 from the County Hospital, Pembury, and 2 from Tudeley, the latter being treated at home.

Poliomyelitis

One case was notified from Matfield in a boy, aged thirteen years, who was removed to Capel Hospital. The boy attended Brenchley School, the classroom which he was in being fumigated by the Inspector. The Health Nurse, at the request of the M.O.H., visited the school and gave throat treatments to about 85 boys on four occasions. No further cases were reported. The M.O.H. visited the school and another suspected case was followed up.

Minor Infectious Diseases

Head teachers notified a total of 365 actual or suspected cases of minor infectious diseases as follows : Measles 275, chicken-pox 63, impetigo 11, whooping cough 8, tonsillitis 5, ringworm 2, mumps 1.

Tuberculosis

During the year, 28 new cases were notified ; 15 deaths were registered.

Age Periods			NEW CASES				DEATHS			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
5	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	4	3	...	...	1	...	...	...
25	...	...	2	3	...	1	...	2	1	...
35	...	...	2	2	...	...	2	2	...	...
45	...	...	6	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
55	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	1	...	...
65 and over	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
			16	10	...	2	7	6	1	1
			26		2		13		2	

The total number of cases on the Official Register is given in the South-West Kent section of the report.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

Health Visiting

The report appended, supplied by Miss H. Wakefield, Superintendent for the West Kent Area of the Kent County Nursing Association, gives particulars of the visits made by the District Nurses of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing who are located at twelve points in the Tonbridge Rural Area, and these attend to the constituent parishes.

Nursing District.					No. of Visits				
					To Expectant Mothers.		To Infants under 12 Months		To Children 1 to 5 Years
					First	Sub-sequent	First	Sub-sequent	
Ashurst and Groombridge	...	...	...	...	2	10	9	22	48
Brenchley...	...	...	...	...	10	49	19	85	209
Capel and Tudeley	...	...	...	...	28	115	47	156	269
Hadlow	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	228	373
Hildenborough	...	...	...	...	28	234	23	148	181
Horsmonden	...	...	...	...	26	89	34	181	132
Lamberhurst	...	...	...	...	18	214	18	108	263
Langton Green	...	...	...	...	8	56	15	95	98
Matfield	...	...	...	...	10	46	15	58	156
Paddock Wood	...	...	...	...	13	80	20	140	282
Pembury	...	...	...	...	9	63	23	227	292
Speldhurst and Bidborough	...	...	...	...	6	47	35	116	173
					158	1003	281	1564	2476

Infant Welfare Centres

There are now nine Infant Welfare Centres in Tonbridge Rural District, provided by Voluntary Associations and aided by the District Council. A new Centre was opened during the first quarter of the year at Speldhurst. The Health Visitor for the respective parish attends each meeting of the Centre, and the Medical Officer, mostly the local doctor, attends each Centre at least once a month. The Statutory Committee meets quarterly and is attended by Council members, Welfare Centre honorary secretaries, the Superintendent for the West Area of the Kent Nursing Association, and the Medical Officer of Health, who submits quarterly reports to the Committee on the work done.

The following figures show the attendances made at the various Centres during 1938 :—

CENTRES					Attendances by Children			No. of Sessions during Year	Total Attendances of Mothers
					Under 1 Year	1—5 Years	Average per Session		
Brenchley	...	...	...	...	77	282	18·0	20	291
Capel...	...	...	...	...	173	240	19·0	22	320
Hadlow	...	...	...	...	143	362	25·2	20	381
Hildenborough	...	...	...	...	399	486	19·0	47	582
Horsmonden	...	...	...	...	116	297	19·0	22	350
Lamberhurst	...	...	...	...	162	361	24·0	22	474
Paddock Wood	...	...	...	...	73	116	9·0	21	147
Pembury	...	...	...	...	198	503	29·0	24	390
Speldhurst	...	...	...	...	84	142	16·0	14	217
Totals (9 Centres)	...	...	...	...	1425	2789	178·2	212	3152

Maternal Deaths

Two maternal deaths occurred, one at the Tunbridge Wells General Hospital from Five Oak Green, and the other at the County Hospital, Pembury, from the parish of Pembury, confidential reports being supplied to the Ministry of Health.

Ante-natal Scheme

In connection with this scheme, in respect of the routine ante-natal examination of women who have engaged midwives for their confinement but who are unable to pay the medical fee, 14 such examinations were made by doctors during the year as follows :—Paddock Wood 5, Five Oak Green 3, Brenchley and Horsmonden each 2, and Capel and Matfield each 1.

Dr. Sims, of the Ministry of Health, made an inspection of the maternity and child welfare work in Tonbridge Rural District, and suggested that the Council should consider whether some facilities might not be provided at the existing Child Welfare Centres in addition to the further use of the general practitioner scheme.

A Sub-Committee of the above Council appointed to consider the matter were of opinion that the establishment of Ante-natal Clinics are not practicable in the Rural District and made the following recommendations :—

“ That the Council’s existing scheme for ante-natal examination of women who have engaged midwives for the confinement should be extended so as to provide—

(a) Two ante-natal examinations of the mother by a medical practitioner—one at the early stages of pregnancy, and the other at the 7th or 8th month ;

(b) One post-natal examination, say one month after birth, and that the fee payable to the doctor be 5s. for each examination.”

The above recommendations have been adopted by the Tonbridge Rural District Council, and the medical practitioners, midwives, health visitors, etc., circularised regarding this new extension of the services.

Orthopædic Scheme

In connection with the Kent County Council Joint Scheme for the treatment of crippled children, 3 patients from Tonbridge Rural District attended the Sevenoaks Clinic.

Grants of Milk

Free grants of milk on grounds of health were recommended in necessitous cases to expectant mothers and young children ; a total of 1,552 liquid gallons and 21 lbs. of dried milk were supplied during 1938 by the Council.

Dental Scheme

During the year, under the above scheme, 23 mothers and 4 children received dental treatment during the year.

Child Life Protection

Number of persons receiving children for reward at the end of the year	42
Number of children on Register at the end of the year	75
Number of Child Protection Visitors at the end of the year who were :	
(i) Health Visitors	3
(ii) Female, other than Health Visitors	8
(iii) Male	<i>Nil</i>

Ministry of Health Inspection

Dr. Carol Sims, a Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, did, on the 29th March, 1938, interview at the Council Offices Major Field-Marsham, Chairman of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, Mr. Lee, Clerk to the Council, and the Medical Officer of Health.

Every aspect of the Council's work was fully discussed. Dr. Sims informed us that several other Authorities utilise the district nurses for health visiting work with great success.

On Tuesday, the 24th May, 1938, the Clerk and Medical Officer of Health did by invitation interview Dr. Isabella Cameron and Miss Pluxley at the Ministry of Health regarding several items that Dr. Sims had mentioned in her report.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR 1938

Housing

During 1938 the number of houses inspected was 224, exclusive of others dealt with under the Public Health Acts, and of this number only 23 required no action. Of the remaining 201 unfit cottages, 38 have been, or are being, dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.

The total number of cottages repaired or reconditioned during 1938 is 119 (excluding those not completed), many of which involved works of an extensive character. The nature of the principal defects may be observed by reference to the statistical data relating to this work which appears later in the statement.

Fourteen cottages were demolished in 1938, none of which were worth preserving. In one instance demolition effected the dual role of removing unsatisfactory dwellings and, at the same time, creating a striking improvement to the site of other existing dwellings which have since been repaired.

Reconditioning of suitable cottages is aimed at wherever the circumstances render it desirable, despite the fact that the cost of repairs may be unreasonable. It has been found possible to recondition five such properties, and, in addition, ten were closed by formal action pending an opportunity to carry out the necessary works of restoration and repair. By such measures it has been possible to avoid the unnecessary demolition of properties possessing natural charm or historic and æsthetic significance.

Families displaced from demolished or closed cottages have been re-housed by the Council.

Mention is made of the use of the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts later.

The total number of inspections made in connection with housing work during the year was 1391.

Survey—Horsmonden Parish

The above figures include those arising from action taken in this parish during 1938, but, as the survey of this parish was actually started in October, 1937, the following details are comprehensive and cover the whole of this particular survey up to the 31st December, 1938.

The number of properties dealt with in Horsmonden to date is 171, only 37 of which were found to be fit in all respects. Of the remainder, 101 could be repaired at an economic figure, the other 33 being dealt with under Section 11 of the Act. Most of the repairable cases have been completed and others are in hand. In many cases cottages which can be repaired at a reasonable cost and others which cannot are in the same ownership; it has been considered politic to let negotiations embrace each category of property simultaneously. The latter class of property necessitates rather lengthy procedure and the completion of the survey ultimately depends upon the expedition with which the really bad cases are dealt with.

Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, 1926–1938

During 1938 two cottages were the subject of action under this statute. These were reconditioned according to schedules prepared by the office, and additional rooms were constructed, a grant of £192 being made by the Kent County Council in respect of the pair. In addition, schedules of work were prepared by this office in respect of 25 other properties, the owners of which have been advised to take advantage of the facilities offered. It is anticipated that applications will definitely be made concerning 15 of these cottages during 1939.

Housing—Statistical Data

Inspections of Dwelling-houses during the Year

1. Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	308
2. Number of inspections made for this purpose... ..	1,635
3. Number of dwelling-houses inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925–1932	224
4. Number of inspections made for the purpose	1,391
5. Number of houses found to be unfit and incapable of repair at a reasonable cost (Section 11)	38
6. Number of houses found not to be fit in all respects	163

Remedy of Defects by Informal Action

Number of houses rendered fit by informal action, including 23 dealt with under Public Health Acts	132
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Action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	18
2. Number of dwelling-houses demolished	14
3. Number of dwelling-houses awaiting demolition	7
4. Number of dwelling-houses closed (acceptance of Undertaking which has not been subsequently cancelled)	10
5. Number of dwelling-houses reconditioned and operative Undertakings cancelled	5

The following is a tabulated statement indicating the nature of the more important works carried out to dwelling-houses during the year.

Walls

Number rendered dry by insertion of effective damp proof course	...	56
Number rendered dry by internal rendering with waterproofed cement...	...	141
Number repaired (included tile hanging, weather-boarding, re-plastering, etc.)	... ..	149
Number rebuilt and/or foundations underpinned	... ..	27

Chimneys

Number of chimney stacks taken down and rebuilt	... ..	20
Number of chimney stacks provided with lead flashings, tray damp proof courses or repointed	... ..	31
Number of fireplaces or flues reconstructed	... ..	7

External Paving

Number of houses provided with impervious paving	... ..	48
Number of houses where paving repaired	... ..	5

Roofs

Number of houses of which roofs stripped, rebattened and tiled or slated	...	9
Number of houses of which roofs were repaired	... ..	12
Number of houses of which roofs were provided with new guttering and downspouts	... ..	23
Number of houses of which roof guttering repaired	... ..	43

Floors

Number of ventilated timber floors substituted for damp brick floors	...	23
Number of waterproofed concrete floors substituted for damp brick floors	... ..	50
Number of existing floors repaired, sub-floor ventilation provided or improved, etc.	... ..	45

Lighting and Ventilation

Number of new windows constructed in houses	... ..	83
Number of existing windows repaired	... ..	53
Number of dormer windows tiled or dressed with lead	... ..	5
Number of rooms provided with additional ventilation	... ..	45

Food Storage

Number of new food stores constructed	... ..	22
Number of existing food stores rendered fit	... ..	15

Water Supply and Drainage

Water supply service extended and laid on over sinks	... ..	18
Number of glazed stoneware sinks provided and fixed	... ..	31
Number of water closets provided with automatic flushing apparatus	...	22
Number of new water closet compartments complete with pedestal pan and flushing apparatus provided	... ..	41
Number of closets converted to water closets	... ..	6
Number of new drainage systems complete with septic tank, etc.	...	9
Number of new drainage lengths laid	... ..	15

Miscellaneous

Coppers provided or rebuilt	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Ceilings renewed or repaired...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
New staircases constructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Staircases repaired or stiffened	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Cooking ranges renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Rooms redecorated	...	...	...	...	...	...	99
Number of houses redecorated externally	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
Number of dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	18

Disinfection, Cleansing of Premises, etc.

Number of houses disinfected in connection with cases of infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
Number of houses disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	...	12

Eradication of Bed Bugs

Number of Council houses found to be infested	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of other houses found to be infested	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of Council houses disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of other houses disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	2

The infested Council house is semi-detached and disinfestation of the pair was carried out by the Associated Fumigation Company Ltd., using hydrogen cyanide at an inclusive charge of £3 5s. per house.

The other two houses were treated with an insecticide—"Matafly"—manufactured by Messrs. Cooper McDougall's Ltd.

Inspection and Supervision of Food**Milk Supply**

There are 121 registered producers of milk, of which total 46 are producer-retailers. In addition, 28 persons are registered as retail purveyors only.

During the year, 173 inspections of dairy farms were carried out during the times of milking, and, in addition, 27 inspections of retail purveyors' premises were made.

Much remains to be done in connection with the production of milk both as regards methods of production and distribution, and the structural condition of premises. The provision of steam sterilisation plant by those engaged in the retail distribution is the exception rather than the rule, but this aspect of the work is being tackled. It has been possible to secure the provision of such plant in the case of two retail dealers as well as improvements in the dairies concerned and the supply of new dairy cleansing equipment.

One cowshed was reconstructed during the year as a result of informal action by this office, the work including new floor, lining of all walls with metal sheets, and the fixture of new hopper type "fall-in" windows and additional ventilation. The floors and standings of 14 other milking sheds on various farms were also renewed.

In addition to the above work, 105 samples of milk were obtained, 102 being submitted for bacteriological examination on behalf of the Kent County Council in respect of accredited herds.

Meat and Other Food

Experience in this District indicates that practically all slaughtering is carried out after the normal shop closing hours and usually on market days. To ensure the inspection of the bulk of animals slaughtered it is therefore necessary to make regular evening calls on Tuesdays and Thursdays between the hours of 7 and 9 p.m. There are at least eleven slaughter houses in use on the same evenings at similar times, and these are located throughout the District. Varying times of completion inevitably result in some futile visits and the difficulties cannot, under the present circumstances, be surmounted. Intensifying these difficulties is the spasmodic slaughtering which takes place at all sorts of irregular times. The general effect is that it is possible to inspect only about 50 per cent. of the whole. Despite this, butchers are accustomed to supervision by this department and cases of obvious abnormality are notified.

Efforts are made to inspect animals before slaughter, but even where not subjected to ante-mortem inspection, all post-mortem examinations are conducted in accordance with the guiding principles recommended by the Ministry of Health in Memorandum 62 Foods.

The following summarises the work in connection with meat inspection during 1938 :—

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Bovines	Sheep	Swine	Total
Number inspected	208	394	359	961
<i>All diseases except tuberculosis.</i>				
(a) Whole carcases condemned ...	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>	3	3
(b) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	15	3	8	26
(c) Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis to any degree	7.21	0.75	3.06	...
<i>Tuberculosis.</i>				
(a) Whole carcases condemned ...	7	<i>Nil</i>	3	10
(b) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	14	<i>Nil</i>	22	36
(c) Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis to any degree ...	10.1	<i>Nil</i>	6.96	...

New Slaughter Houses

One application was received for the licensing of premises for use as a slaughter house. The buildings concerned are situated in a residential area of an urbanised nature, and the site has the joint disadvantages of restrictiveness and proximity to dwellings in the vicinity. The proposed slaughtering room itself forms an addition to an occupied dwelling. In view of the unsatisfactory position the Council refused the application.

Knackers' Yard, Hildenborough

The occupier of these premises was requested to provide some form of suitable screen to an area of land used for the disposal of drainage and other waste products which has hitherto been visible from the London-Hastings highway. One hundred *Macra-carpa* trees have been planted in two "staggered-rows" for a length of about 60 yards. Unfavourable weather has retarded their growth, but it is anticipated that during 1939 they will have grown sufficiently to form an effective barrier.

Food Preparing Rooms

Early in the year two food preparing rooms attached to butchers' premises were reconstructed. New impervious drained floors, metal lined and rendered walls, smooth ceilings, new windows and means of ventilation, together with vermin-proofing, were included in this work. Regard has been had, however, to the application of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, which becomes operative as from October 1st, 1939.

Water Supplies

During July, 1938, a case of dysentery was notified, and resultant enquiries included investigation of the available water supply. A bacteriological report, dated July 14th, from the County Pathologist revealed evidence of faecal contamination. The owners advised all consumers to boil water pending discovery of the cause of contamination and its removal.

It was found that one of the sources of supply was polluted and that the remaining one, although of good quality at its point of outcrop, became contaminated in its passage through filters provided at the pump house. Works of improvement were put in hand, with the result that the supply afforded has since been of good quality. This has, however, necessitated the continued exclusion of one of the two original sources of supply which proves still to be unsatisfactory despite extensive works for improvement and protection of the springs.

Rivers Pollution

During the year, samples of water from the principal tributaries of the River Medway were obtained and submitted for analysis. Many of these revealed that these streams were polluted before reaching this District.

The total number of water samples from all sources submitted for examination is as follows :—

For chemical examination	49
For bacteriological examination	23

Camp Sites

One camping site only was licensed by the Council under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

On one occasion an application for a licence to occupy a site in Pembury was refused by the Council and occupation of the land in question ceased when legal proceedings were imminent.

Shops Acts Duties

Of the 270 inspections of shops many were in connection with the compilation of a shops' register and with reference to the hours of closing, especially concerning Sunday trading. In this latter connection one case only of illegal Sunday trading was found. This occurred during the hop-picking season when the exigencies of the occasion resulted in one trader preparing food for delivery on a Sunday—this practice ceased immediately following informal notice of the infringement.

Respecting Section 10 of the Shops Act, 1934, washing facilities and additional ventilation were provided to one shop and, at other premises, new sanitary conveniences were constructed to augment existing but insufficient accommodation.

Smoke Abatement

Complaint was made with reference to smoke and grit emission from a factory chimney situated in the District. Investigation confirmed that such a nuisance existed and the matter was taken up with the occupier of the factory. The recommendations of the Coal Utilisation Council were subsequently carried out—these included alteration to the furnace bridge and methods of stoking. This action appears to have remedied the trouble.

Factories and Workshops

Number of inspections of factories	...	...	4
Number of inspections of bakehouses	...	...	10

One bakehouse was provided with a new floor, and the floor and window of the flour store were reconstructed. Washing facilities were installed with main water laid on, and means of waste disposal to the general drainage system.

Public Houses

A number of the public houses situated in the District have been inspected as a result of the receipt of various complaints. In many cases drainage arrangements were unsatisfactory, sanitary conveniences insufficient, and washing facilities to deal with utensils not provided.

The owners of two public houses entered into an agreement with the Council providing for the drainage of their premises into sewage purification works on housing estates. Additional sanitary conveniences are also being provided.

Extensive works of improvement have been completed at one other public house; these include the installation of a domestic hot water supply system with an extension to a sink situated in the bar, renewal of part of the roof, drainage alterations, and both external and internal redecoration.

Intimation has been received from the owners of two other premises that schedules of works suggested by the department would be incorporated in reconstruction schemes.

In one other instance bad housing conditions as well as defects indicated above were found to exist. Informal action resulted in the conversion of a cottage back-to-back with licensed premises into one premises, with the accompanying improvement of living quarters and the provision of up-to-date sanitary conveniences and new arrangements for drainage disposal.

Royal Sanitary Institute Congress**Portsmouth—July, 1938**

I attended this Conference as the Council's delegate. Among the subjects dealt with were :—

Housing.

Food inspection.

Air Raid Precautions.

Much useful data was obtained from these and also from the informal discussions which were held with representatives of districts from other parts of the country.

Air Raid Precautions**Civilian Anti-gas Instruction : Training Course, Falfield, Glos.**

I attended this course of training during October, 1938, and duly qualified as an instructor in anti-gas measures. Since then instruction has been given to classes of A.R.P. volunteers in the villages situated in the District.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT**Public Water Supply**

The following recommendations were submitted to the Southborough U.D.C. by the M.O.H. in his report for the quarter ended December 31st, 1937 :—

“ That samples of both the Modest Corner and Hayesden water supplies be separately submitted to bacteriological analysis every month, and to chemical analysis every quarter, and that copies of the reports of the analyses be sent to the M.O.H.

That both the Modest Corner and Hayesden water supplies be treated by constant chlorination.

That all employees in connection with the Council's water undertaking be medically examined now and every five years to make certain that none of them are typhoid carriers.”

Mr. W. N. Wood, Clerk to the Council, wrote, dated February 24th, 1938, stating that the recommendations, which I had also made to the seven other water undertakings in South-West Kent, had been agreed to by his Council. In his report for the quarter ended March 31st, 1938, the M.O.H. said : “ In addition to the recommendations already made, as a further precautionary measure samples for bacteriological and chemical analyses of the stream at the Modest Corner Works and the pond above the Hayesden Works should be taken periodically and sent for analysis. Copies of the reports to be sent to the M.O.H.”

Mr. W. Neville Wood, Clerk, wrote dated June 2nd, 1938 :—

“ The Council instructs me to say that so far as the stream at Modest Corner is concerned it does not consider any further action on its part is necessary in view of the fact that the recommendations of the Inspector who visited the Works on behalf of the Ministry of Health are being carried out.

With regard to the pond near the Hayesden Works the Council is not prepared to adopt your suggestion.”

During the year a continuous series of samples were taken of the Modest Corner and Hayesden sources of supply.

Dated November 28th, 1938, the M.O.H. wrote Dr. Ponder, County M.O., as follows :—

“ I have just looked through my copy of your 1937 Annual Report on the health of the County of Kent which I have received to-day and for which I thank you.

I congratulate you upon the concise way in which the mass of information is presented in readable form. It was after reading your paragraph upon the Croydon typhoid fever epidemic in your introduction that I decided to write to you regarding Southborough water supply. Ever since there was an outbreak of true typhoid fever in Southborough Urban District in 1927, I have advised the Council to close down the Modest Corner spring. In view of the recent adverse analysis, I would greatly value your advice and support in the matter.”

Dr. Ponder replied, dated November 30th, 1938 :—

“ I thank you for your letter of the 28th instant, regarding the Modest Corner spring.

The laboratory records show that two kinds of water from the pumping station are being sent for bacteriological examination, one before chlorination and the other after chlorination, and whilst the untreated water is quite unsatisfactory, the chlorinated water has been consistently good, with one exception, viz., [the sample submitted on the 24th August.

In these circumstances, it seems unjustifiable to recommend the closing down of this spring water. The chlorinating plant, carefully controlled and worked, should ensure that this water can be used with safety.”

Sewage Disposal

The only additions to the Sewage System in this District during 1938 were small lengths of sewers laid for private development.

Refuse Disposal

Similar methods of collection and disposal of refuse have been adopted during the year. A new refuse tip has been procured at High Brooms and tipping has been going on there for several months.

SOUTHBOROUGH HEALTH EXHIBITION

February 9th, 1938

As Medical Officer of Health to the United Health Area of South-West Kent, I greatly appreciate the honour the Southborough Maternity and Child Welfare Committee has done me in inviting me to be Chairman at the opening of this local Health Campaign, and to have the pleasure of introducing our busy Kent County Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Constant Ponder. There is nothing more remarkable in Britain in recent years than the greatly increased interest in the preservation of healthy, happy individual life—no doubt the Great War was nature's stimulus. It is often asked, Who won the 1914–19 Great World War? Well, I will give you a new answer: From a racial point of view the yellow race won the war, judging from actual numbers of people left to carry on. You will remember that toward the end of the war (I was in the British Army out in *Macedonia* then, as the Greeks call it, pronouncing the Mac like the nickname for my fellow-countrymen, the Scots) when so many of the white race were killed off that there were few left to do road and railway work, consequently thousands of the yellow chinks were brought over to do this. Most unfortunately, however, they brought with them their endemic diseases, including the pneumonic plague, commonly called the "spanish influenza." That plague, or the modern black death, killed off probably more white men, and alas, women and children, than were killed in actual warfare, devilishly and bitterly cruel as that was. Virtually, then, from a population statistical point of view, the yellow race, or taken collectively and numerically, the black race, won the Great War and that was the culmination of the long-feared yellow peril in the West. Now that the Chinese and Japanese are busy amongst themselves in the East it would be unwise to interfere with them. The population of China alone equals that of the whole of the Empire of Great Britain, with possibly the United States of America added on.

Well, this sorrowfully massive massacre of the white British race led people to think of preserving infant life and so started Maternity and Child Welfare Centres in Wales, Ireland, Scotland and England—all over the British Isles. I give the sections of Britain in that order, for those who are interested in cross-word puzzles will notice that the first letters thus make the word WISE. Consequently it is a good and friendly policy to BE WISE and BE BRITISH.

Mrs. Cecilia Ferguson, a lady beloved of everyone in this part of Kent, who has done such excellent work as a Commandant in the British Red Cross Society, was the founder of the Southborough Child Welfare Centre. She and her energetic Committee have seen the attendances grow from six in 1919 to

120 babies weekly, at the present time. These centres do excellent work, and they are not paid by charity because everyone contributes directly or indirectly through the rates and taxes.

Southborough and neighbourhood, with all the residential towns in Britain to choose from, is fortunate in having amongst its distinguished residents, not only Miss Margaret Bondfield, the first lady British Cabinet Minister, but also the Right Honourable Sir Kingsley Wood, His British Majesty's Minister of Health. Those of us who have had the pleasure of meeting him and have the privilege of working under him, admire his boundless energy and enthusiasm for the good health of the British people. He has graciously spared a few of his busy moments to send to us an encouraging message to-day which reads as follows :—

“ I am most interested to hear of the Health Campaign Meeting at Southborough on the 9th February and I am very sorry that my official and parliamentary duties make it impossible for me to come and give the meeting a send-off.

As Minister of Health, I am naturally concerned that the people of Britain should make full use of the many health facilities available to them, and, as a man of Kent by residence, I may be forgiven for having a particularly close regard for the health of this particular county.

The nation-wide campaign for better health has a very simple object—to tell people about the means of health that are open to them so that they may make better use of them to the inestimable benefit of themselves, their families and their country.

I am sure this meeting will do much to promote these objects in Southborough, especially the health of mother and baby, and I wish it every success.

(Signed) Sir KINGSLEY WOOD, Minister of Health.”

Dr. Ponder then spoke also upon the necessity of improving and increasing the British stock and compared Britain with what is being done in Russia to preserve the White Race. After the Doctor had declared the Exhibition open, excellent and highly appreciated demonstrations were given by the Child Welfare and British Red Cross workers to the large and enthusiastic audience.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Notifiable Diseases during the Year

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet fever	4	4	...
Pneumonia	4	...	...
Erysipelas... ..	3	...	...
Puerperal pyrexia ...	4	1	...
	15	5	...

Scarlet Fever

Only 4 cases of scarlet fever were notified during the year ; 1 was isolated at the Southborough Urban Isolation Hospital and 3 at the Tunbridge Wells Borough Sanatorium. The latter arrangement was agreed upon at a Conference held between Officials of the two Councils. The Southborough Urban District Council's Isolation Hospital has been closed and all cases of infectious disease, including scarlet fever, diphtheria and enteric fever, are now admitted to the Corporation's sanatorium upon agreed terms.

Pneumonia

Four cases occurring in adults were notified during the year, all being treated at home.

Erysipelas

Three erysipelas cases were notified in adults, all being treated at home.

Puerperal Pyrexia

Three of the cases were treated at home and 1 was admitted to the County Hospital, Pembury. All the home contacts were swabbed for hæmolytic streptococci ; 2 proved positive and were advised to gargle with antiseptic.

Minor Infectious Diseases

Head teachers notified 102 actual or suspected cases of minor infectious diseases as follows : 51 measles and 51 chicken-pox.

Tuberculosis

Eight new cases were notified ; 6 deaths were registered.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1 ... ..	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
5 ... ..	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
15 ... ..	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
25 ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
35	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
45	2	1	...	...	3	1	...	...
55 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	3	3	2	...	3	2	1	...
	6		2		5		1	

Details of the total number of cases of tuberculosis on the official register of the Medical Officer of Health are given in the South-West Kent section of this report.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR 1938

Summary of Inspections

Nuisances and Defects Remedied during the Year

Sanitary accommodation	(i) Insufficient	...	...	...	...	5
	(ii) Defective	...	...	...	...	6
Drainage :	(i) Reconstructed	...	...	...	...	4
	(ii) Repaired	...	...	...	...	11
	(iii) Cleansed	...	...	...	...	6
<i>Re</i> Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	2
<i>Re</i> Keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	...	1
<i>Re</i> Offensive accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	1
<i>Re</i> Refuse receptacles	...	...	...	...	...	27
<i>Re</i> Tents, vans and sheds	...	...	...	...	...	3
<i>Re</i> Yard paving	...	...	...	...	...	19
<i>Re</i> Dampness	...	...	...	...	...	20
<i>Re</i> Roofs and rainwater pipes	...	...	...	...	...	20
<i>Re</i> Floors	...	...	...	...	...	28
<i>Re</i> Walls and ceilings	...	...	...	...	...	33
<i>Re</i> Windows and ventilation	...	...	...	...	...	19
Baths, lavatory basins and sinks...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Water supplies	...	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	3
Total number of visits of all kinds made during the year					...	210
Bakehouses. —Number in District	...	...	...	...	...	5
Number of visits	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dairies. —Number in District...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Number of visits	...	...	...	...	...	42
Slaughterhouses. —Number in District	...	...	...	...	...	6
Number of visits	...	...	...	...	...	10
Factories, Workshops and Workplaces. —Number in District	...	...	...	...	...	86
Number of visits	...	...	...	...	...	70
Approximate number of separate premises in area				...	...	2,291
Approximate number of such premises at the end of the year, containing each type of sanitary convenience as under :—						
W.C.'s into drainage system	...	...	...	...	...	2,225
W.C.'s into cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	66
Earth closets or privy middens	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil</i>
Pail closets	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil</i>

Number of premises not connected to public water supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil</i>
Number of Statutory notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil</i>
Number of informal notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Number of houses, etc., disinfected...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Batches of clothing disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

Approx. amount of food condemned during the year :—

8 cwts. 2 qrs. 10½ lbs. (36 tins of salmon) (including 3 carcasses or parts of carcasses condemned on account of tuberculosis).

HOUSING

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses <i>inspected</i> for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	...	151
Number of inspections made for that purpose	...	...	...	...	...	...	233
(2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under the preceding heading) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Number of inspections made for that purpose	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil</i>
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	84

2. Remedy of defects without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	80
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

3. Action under statutory powers.

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.							
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
(1) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after the service of formal notices :—							
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil</i>
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil</i>
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil</i>
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil</i>
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil</i>
(e) Overcrowding (Housing Act, 1936, Part IV)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil</i>

Inspection and Supervision of Food

(a) MILK SUPPLY.—Routine inspections have been made and samples of milk have been collected as required by the County Council.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—Routine inspections are made under the Meat Regulations to all slaughterhouses and meat shops. The following table shows the number of carcasses inspected and condemned during the year :—

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Number inspected	179	3	...	132	165
All diseases except T.B. :					
Whole carcasses condemned ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	...	...	...	1	...
Percentage of the number inspected infected with disease other than tuberculosis ... ..	...	...	...	0·7	...
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	...	...	...	...
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	...	...	...	...
Percentage of the number inspected infected with tuberculosis	1·7	...	...	...	...

BOROUGH OF TENTERDEN

1938 HEALTH REPORT

General Statistics

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,946
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,472
Population (Registrar-General's estimate mid-year 1938)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,431
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£23,213
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£91
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,094

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year

					Total	Male	Female	
Live Births	{ Legitimate	...	...	...	41	22	19	
	{ Illegitimate	...	...	...	0	0	0	
					—	—	—	
					41	22	19	
					—	—	—	
Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.1
Still-births	{ Legitimate	...	...	...	3	3	0	
	{ Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	0	1	
					—	—	—	
					4	3	1	
					—	—	—	
Stillbirth-rate per 1,000 of total (live and still) births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	88.8
Deaths	...	...	...	...	45	25	20	
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.1
Deaths from puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Death-rate of infants under one year of age	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.0
The actual number of infant deaths was	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Deaths from measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

Water Supply

The Borough is supplied by the Cranbrook and District Water Company ; details of work carried out and of analyses are given in the Cranbrook Report. With the new reservoirs at Hartley, Cranbrook, and at St. Michaels, Tenterden, the public supply should now be good and constant.

Drainage and Sewerage

The whole Borough has a modern drainage and sewage disposal system.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE
Notifiable Diseases during the Year

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	7	7	...
Diphtheria	1	1	...
Pneumonia	3	...	1
Erysipelas	2	...	...
	13	8	1

Scarlet Fever

Seven cases were notified in the Borough during the year, all being removed to the Cranbrook and Tenterden Isolation Hospital. The age periods of the cases were :—

5-10

1

10-15

3

15-20

3

= 7

Four of the cases attended school ; two cases occurred in one family, one being of a young woman employed at a nursery in London where there had been scarlet fever. Another of the cases had visited Folkestone.

Diphtheria

One case of laryngeal diphtheria was notified in a child aged three years who was removed to the Cranbrook and Tenterden Isolation Hospital. The M.O.H. visited and swabbed the three contacts, all of which proved negative.

Pneumonia

Three cases were notified, two in children aged three and thirteen years which were complicated with measles (both were treated at home), and the third case occurred in a male aged 20 years, who was treated at Kench Hill Nursing Home (this case proved fatal).

Erysipelas

Both cases were treated at home ; one occurred in a child and the other in an adult.

Minor Infectious Diseases

Head teachers notified a total of 25 actual or suspected cases, 22 measles and 3 chicken-pox.

Tuberculosis

Three new cases were notified ; three deaths were registered.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
15 	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25 ... ...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...
35 ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
45 ... ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
55 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	1	1	1	...	1	1	1	...
	2		1		2		1	

The total number of cases on the official register are given in the South-West Kent section of the report.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR 1938
Summary of Inspections

Slaughter Houses and Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	54
Cowsheds and Dairies...	...	...	...	...	...	87
Bakehouses ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Drainage, new and existing	...	...	...	...	...	34
Cesspools ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Accumulations...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hop-pickers' Huts	...	...	...	...	...	10
Housing Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	10
Water Samples taken...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Milk Samples taken ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Animals improperly kept	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fumigations ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Food Condemned (6 cwt. meat)	...	...	...	...	...	2
Infectious Diseases investigated	...	...	...	...	...	8
Miscellaneous ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Total	...	...	...	...	...	272

Inspection and Supervision of Food

(a) Milk Supply.—Routine inspections have been made and samples of milk have been collected as required by the County Council.

(b) Meat and Other Foods.—Routine inspections are made under the Meat Regulations to all slaughter houses and meat shops.

The following table shows the number of carcases inspected and condemned during the year :—

	Cattle including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed, approx.	150	100	600	600
Number inspected, approx.	100	60	300	300
All diseases, except T.B. : Whole car- cases condemned ... ..	...	...	...	...
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned (Imported, damaged in transit) ... ..	...	...	1	...
Percentage of the number inspected infected with disease other than tuberculosis ... ..	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis only : Whole carcasses condemned	1	...	...	...
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	...	...	...	...
Percentage of number inspected in- fected with tuberculosis	1·0	...	...	...

Factories and Workshops

	No. in District	Visits	Defects	
			Found	Remedied
Bakehouses	3	12	...	...
Dairies	29	87	...	...
Slaughter houses	2	54	...	...
Other Food-preparing Places ...	2	9	...	...

Housing

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses.
- (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects
(under Public Health or Housing Acts) 6
- Number of inspections made for that purpose 10

(2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under the preceding heading) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932...	4
Number of inspections made for that purpose ...	4
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation...	<i>Nil</i>
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	4
2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	4
3. Action under Statutory Powers.	
(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 ...	<i>Nil</i>
(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts ...	<i>Nil</i>
(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 ...	<i>Nil</i>
(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 ...	<i>Nil</i>
(E) Overcrowding (Housing Act, 1936, Part IV.).	
(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year ...	3
(2) Number of families dwelling therein ...	3
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	23
(The above cases were resident before the appointed day. Suitable accommodation has not yet been found.	

TONBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT

1938 HEALTH REPORT

General Statistics

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,599
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,832
Population (Registrar-General's estimate mid-year 1938)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17,670
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£151,764
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£576
Number of inhabited houses (at the end of 1938) according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,890

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year

					Total	Male	Female	
Live Births	{ Legitimate	...	...	...	221	110	111	
	{ Illegitimate	...	...	...	10	4	6	
					<hr/> 231	<hr/> 114	<hr/> 117	
Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population					...	...	...	13.0
Still-births	{ Legitimate	...	...	...	9	5	4	
	{ Illegitimate	...	...	...	0	0	0	
					<hr/> 9	<hr/> 5	<hr/> 4	
Stillbirth-rate per 1,000 of total (live and still) births					...	...	...	37.5
Deaths	...	...	...	...	173	79	94	
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population					...	...	...	9.9
Deaths from puerperal causes :—								
					Deaths	Rates per 1,000 total (live and still) births		
Puerperal sepsis					1	4.1		
Other puerperal causes					1	4.1		
					<hr/> 2	<hr/> 8.2		
Death-rate of infants under one year of age :—								
All infants per 1,000 live births					...	...	...	17.3
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births					...	...	...	18.1
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births					...	...	...	00.0
The actual number of infant deaths was					...	...	...	4
Deaths from cancer (all ages)					...	...	...	30
Deaths from measles (all ages)...					...	...	...	1
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)					...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from diarrhoea (under two years of age)					...	...	...	Nil

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

Water Supply

In response to an inquiry from the M.O.H., Mr. T. Muir Thomson, M.I.Mech.E., Managing Director and Secretary of the Tonbridge Water Works Company, writes, dated February 28th, 1939 :—

“ During the past three months the Tonbridge Company have installed a new electrically-driven borehole pump, capable of pumping from a depth of 450 feet 30,000 to 40,000 gallons of water each hour.

A chlorovisor has now been installed at the works which has proved a very valuable asset. This apparatus records the amount of residual or free chlorine left in the water after treatment. As recommended by the Ministry of Health, the amount of free chlorine should be 0.1 to 0.2 parts per million.

New mains are at present being laid linking up the water supply from the Sevenoaks Water Company. By making this connection it would not only be a valuable asset in peace time but also in connection with Air Raid Precautions. An average of four samples of the Company's water are analysed every month, and in each case the water is proved to be of excellent bacteriological and chemical quality.”

Drainage and Sewerage

Mr. Bert Bishop, the Surveyor and Engineer of Tonbridge Council, writes as follows :—

“ During the past year Priory Mill Sewerage scheme has been completed, and a number of cesspools have been replaced by connections to the new drainage system.

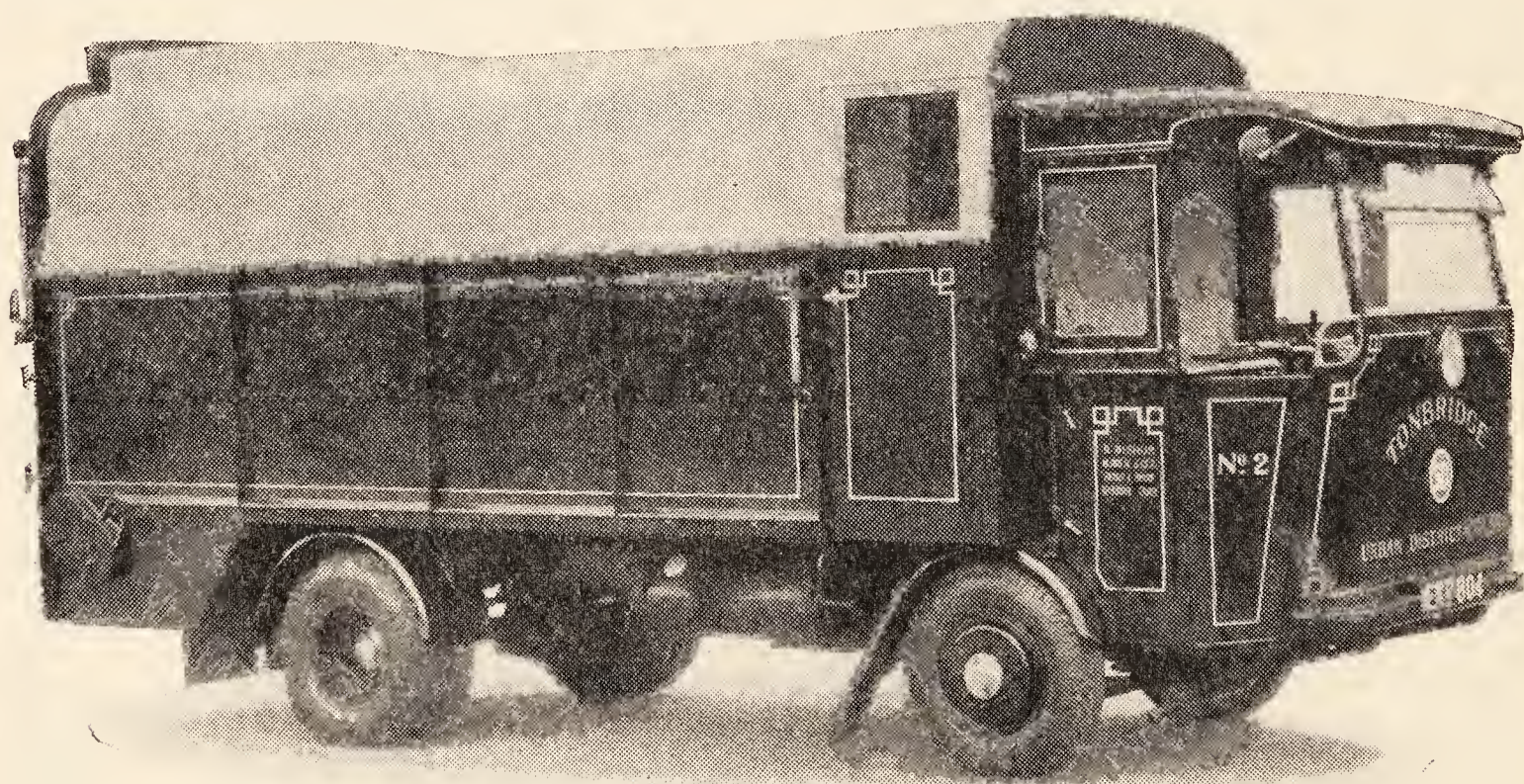
Refuse Disposal

The collection of house refuse has been reorganised and a considerable improvement has been made with a reduction in cost.”

IMPROVEMENTS IN REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

In the early part of the year the Urban Council purchased two 15 cubic yard rear-loading movable floor refuse collecting vehicles, one of which is illustrated below. These vehicles have replaced the old transport consisting of two 7 cubic yard capacity side-loading type.

The new vehicles being more than double the capacity of the old result in fewer journeys being made to the tip. Further, the relay system of collection



has been abandoned, and the vehicles now work independently, one north and one south of the town.

This new method of operating the vehicles, together with the increased capacity, has proved more economical than the former. In fact, the cost of collection has been reduced by over £200 per annum.

In heavily trafficked thoroughfares, such as High Street, the rear loading is found to be safer for the men than the side loading.

One of the principal advantages of the new vehicles and the method of collection is that on Saturday mornings a number of the men are not required for collection. They are engaged on the tip covering the refuse with earth. The tipping operations are now greatly improved.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE
Notifiable Diseases during the Year

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet fever	19	18	...
Diphtheria	7	6	...
Enteric fever	1	1	...
Pneumonia	28	5	5
Erysipelas... ..	7	...	...
Puerperal pyrexia	5	2	2
Dysentery... ..	6	1	...
Poliomyelitis	1	1	...
	74	34	7

Scarlet Fever

A total of 19 cases were notified, 18 were treated at the Capel Joint Isolation Hospital and 1 was isolated at home. The age-periods of the cases were as follows :—

1—5	5—10	10—15	20—30	
6	6	2	5	= 19.

The St. Stephen's School, where several of the cases occurred, was visited by the Health Nurse and 32 children treated with carbolic oil on three successive days. A sister of one of the school cases was found to be peeling slightly and to have enlarged tonsils and glands ; she was admitted to Capel Hospital.

Five cases of scarlet fever occurred in one family ; the first was a child under school age. The second, her father, occurred two weeks later, and the third three weeks from the second case. The last case had a history of a sore throat about a week before the first case. Throat and nasal swabs taken on two occasions proved negative. This patient was detained in hospital for a period of four and a half months. Two further children from this family were admitted to

hospital some months prior to the discharge of the last-mentioned case. The M.O.H. recommended that the bedding which the Matron of the Isolation Hospital reported to be in a bad state, and possibly a source of infection, be replaced by the Council ; this was agreed to and the necessary new bedding supplied. No further cases occurred in the household, which consisted of eight, three of whom had not had the disease.

All the home contacts were visited by the Health Nurse and throat treatments given.

One case was visited by the M.O.H. in consultation with the medical practitioner.

Diphtheria

Seven cases were reported during the year, 6 of which were admitted to the Tonbridge Joint Hospital and 1 was treated at home. They occurred at the following age-periods :—

3—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	35—40	
1	2	2	1	1	= 7.

Four occurred in children attending school ; a secondary school for girls and a preparatory school for boys were involved.

At the Girls' School the Health Nurse, on the instructions of the M.O.H., carried out throat treatments on three successive days ; no further cases occurred.

The medical attendant at the Boys' School swabbed 288 contacts and two " carriers " were found, one a pupil, the other a pantry boy, both of whom were admitted to Capel Isolation Hospital. Arrangements were made by the M.O.H. with the headmaster for the contacts to receive throat treatments on three successive days. This was carried out by the Health Nurse ; no further cases were reported.

Enteric Fever

One case of mild paratyphoid fever occurred in an adult female, who was removed to the Isolation Hospital. The M.O.H. visited the home and place of employment and made inquiries, but no possible source of infection could be traced. Two samples of water were taken at the same time on behalf of the Council and the Water Company and sent to separate laboratories. Both reports were satisfactory.

Pneumonia

A total of 28 cases were reported, 5 of which proved fatal. The age-periods were as follows :—

0—1	1—3	3—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—30	30—40	50 and over	
2	3	1	4	3	1	1	2	11	= 28

Three of the cases were of the influenzal type. Three of the cases were admitted to the Cottage Hospital, 1 to the Kent and Sussex Hospital and 1 to Capel Hospital, which was complicated with measles.

Erysipelas

Seven cases occurred in adults, all being treated at home.

Puerperal Pyrexia

Three cases were treated at home, 1 at the County Hospital, Pembury, which proved fatal, and 1 at the Cottage Hospital, which was complicated with influenzal pneumonia ; this case also died.

Dysentery

Six notifications of this disease were received ; 2 occurred in children and 4 in adults. One of the former was treated at the County Hospital, Pembury.

Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis)

One notification of this disease was received and the patient was transferred from the Cottage Hospital to the Isolation Hospital. The case occurred in a boy aged seven years, who attended Sussex Road School. On the instructions of the M.O.H., the Health Nurse visited the School and treated about 340 children's throats with 1 in 10 carbolic oil on three successive days. No further cases occurred.

Minor Infectious Diseases

Head teachers notified a total of 223 actual or suspected cases of minor infectious diseases as follows :—Measles 182, chicken-pox 30, chills 6, conjunctivitis 2, ringworm 1, mumps 1, impetigo 1.

Tuberculosis

Seventeen new cases were notified ; 12 deaths were registered.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1 ... ..	...	...	3	1	...	...	1	...
5 ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	1	3	...	1	...	3	...	...
25 ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
35	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
45 ... ..	...	2	...	...	2	1	...	...
55	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Totals ...	6	6	3	2	5	5	1	1
	12		5		10		2	

Details of the total number of cases on the official register at the end of the year are given in the South-West Kent section of the report.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR 1938

Total number of visits of all kinds made during the year	...	...	...	1,710
Number of informal notices given for sanitary and housing defects	...	...	...	206
Number of statutory notices served under the Public Health or Housing Acts	...	...	...	9

Bakehouses

Number in District	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Number of visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Number of defects found and remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

Dairies

Number in District	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Number of visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	88
Number of faults found and remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Number of producers of milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Number of purveyors of milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Number of dealer's licences granted to sell milk under the Milk (Special Designations) Order	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

Slaughter-houses

Number in District	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Number of visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	385
Number of defects found and remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

During 1938 the Council licensed one additional slaughter-house.

Meat Inspection. Carcasses Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	...	...	...	...	...
Number inspected...	137	9	70	423	424
All diseases except tuberculosis :					
Whole carcasses condemned	...	...	1	1	...
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	1	...	...	1
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	...	...	...	...
Some part or organ condemned	1	1	...	...	2

Amount of food condemned during the year : 15 cwts. 3 qrs. and 17 lbs.

Nuisances, including sanitary and housing defects dealt with during the year :—

Accumulations (offensive) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Animals (keeping of) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dustbins ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Coppers ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Drainage—Reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Dampness ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Floors (defective) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Gutters, roofs, etc. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Sanitary accommodation—Insufficient	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Defective	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Sinks and baths ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Stoves ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Tents and vans	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Walls and ceilings ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	104
Windows ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Yard paving and drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Others ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	95

Water Sampling

Thirty-seven samples of water were collected and forwarded for analysis or examination.

Examination of Milk for Cleanliness

Nine samples of milk were collected from farms at the request of the County Licensing Authority and forwarded for bacteriological examination or the methylene blue test, to meet the licensing requirements of the Milk (Special Designations) Order, or the terms of the Accredited Milk Scheme.

HOUSING

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	...	...	...	399
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	...	...	...	851
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925–1932... ..	...	...	...	85
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	...	...	...	231

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	7
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	72

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices

Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	42
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 : Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs... ..	<i>Nil</i>
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts : (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—(a) By owners	2
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 : (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	6
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	2
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	<i>Nil</i>

4. Housing Act, 1936. Part 4. Overcrowding

(a) (1) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year	18
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	19
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	128
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ...	8
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ...	5
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	36
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of the overcrowding	<i>Nil</i>

Eradication of Bed Bugs

(1) The number of (a) Council houses	9
(b) Other houses found to be infested.	21
(2) The number of (a) Council houses	9
(b) Other houses disinfested.	10

- (3) The methods employed for freeing infested houses from bed bugs: Fumigation with "Cimex" blocks and sulphur candles, and cleansing and spraying with "Zaldicide," "Certain," "Fuminal," etc., insecticides.
- (4) The methods employed for securing that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses: Treatment with hydrogen cyanide gas in fumigating vans.
- (5) Whether the work of disinfection is carried out by the Local Authority or by a contractor: Council houses are treated by the Council's staff; private houses are treated by builders and by owners and occupiers as necessary. Belongings moved from private houses to Council houses are dealt with by Associated Fumigators Ltd.

The measures taken by way of supervision or education of tenants to prevent infestation or reinfestation after cleansing, include inspection, and the giving of advice verbally and in printed form.

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